



Eric Stevenson, a New York assemblyman, center, with lawyer Murray Richman, right, in New York, April 4, 2013. Stevenson was arrested Thursday on federal charges of accepting bribes and another lawmaker was forced to quit after a scheme to help developers open adult day care centers was uncovered.

(John Marshall Mantel/The New York Times)

Malloy signs CT gun control law

SUSAN HAIGH

Associated Press

HARTFORD, Connecticut

(AP) — Connecticut's governor has signed into law one of America's toughest restrictions on weapons and large capacity ammunition magazines, four months after having to tell shocked parents that their children had been slaughtered in an elementary school shooting.

Also on Thursday, Mary-



Connecticut Gov. Dannel P. Malloy signs new gun control legislation at the Capitol in Hartford, Conn., Thursday, April 4, 2013.

(AP Photo/Steven Senne)

land's already strong gun laws will become among the toughest in the country after the state Senate passed a measure that will now go to the governor, who proposed the legislation, for approval.

Connecticut Gov. Dannel P. Malloy signed the bill hours after the state's General Assembly approved the measure, which sets restrictions on weapons similar to the ones used by the gunman who killed 20 children and six educators in the massacre.

Selling Legislation

New York assemblyman accused of corruption

MARC SANTORA

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In Albany's second major corruption case this week, a New York state lawmaker was arrested Thursday on federal charges of accepting bribes and another lawmaker was forced to resign for his part in a scheme to help developers open and operate adult day care centers.

The criminal complaint outlined a plot that involved exploiting some of New York City's most vulnerable residents, introducing a law to serve the interests of four businessmen and the

passing of cash in a hotel restroom and an upscale steakhouse.

And, in a particularly unusual twist, the case also involved a second assemblyman, himself under indictment, who agreed to cooperate with investigators and wear a recording device to help make the case against a fellow lawmaker.

Assemblyman Eric A. Stevenson, a Democrat who represents some of the city's poorest neighborhoods in the South Bronx, was accused of taking money to help several de-

velopers obtain building certificates, expedite construction work and recruit older people, according to a criminal complaint filed by the U.S. attorney in Manhattan.

Stevenson is also accused of drafting legislation that would have prevented any new adult day care centers from opening in New York City with the express intention of helping the developers.

"For the second time in three days, we unseal criminal charges against a sitting member of our state Legislature," said the U.S.

attorney, Preet Bharara. "As alleged, Assemblyman Eric Stevenson was bribed to enact a statutory moratorium to give his co-defendants a local monopoly — a fairly neat trick that offends core principles of both democracy and capitalism, simultaneously, and it is exactly what the defendants managed to do.

The allegations illustrate the corruption of an elected representative's core function — a legislator selling legislation."

Continued on Page 4

Continued on Page 6

Seoul warns North Korea moved missile to east coast

HYUNG-JIN KIM

SAM KIM

Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)

— After a series of escalating threats, North Korea has moved a missile with

Korea are routine, but the North calls them rehearsals for an invasion and says it needs nuclear weapons to defend itself. The North has also expressed anger over tightened U.N. sanctions

warned that it has been authorized to attack the U.S. using “smaller, lighter and diversified” nuclear weapons. The reference to smaller weapons could be a claim that North Korea

South Korean Defense Minister Kim Kwan-jin said he did not know the reasons behind the North's missile movement, and that it “could be for testing or drills.”

to have a range of 3,000 kilometers (1,800 miles). That would make Japan and South Korea potential targets — along with U.S. bases in both countries — but there are doubts about the missile's accuracy.

The Pentagon announced that it will hasten the deployment of a missile defense system to the U.S. Pacific territory of Guam to strengthen regional protection against a possible attack.

Experts say North Korea has not shown that it has accurate long-range missiles. Some suspect that an apparent long-range missile unveiled by the North at a parade last year was actually a mockup.

“From what we know of its existing inventory, North Korea has short- and medium-range missiles that could complicate a situation on the Korean Peninsula (and perhaps reach Japan), but we have not seen any evidence that it has long-range missiles that could strike the continental U.S., Guam or Hawaii,” James Hardy, Asia Pacific editor of IHS Jane's Defence Weekly, wrote in a recent analysis.

Kim, the South Korean defense minister, said that if North Korea were preparing for a full-scale conflict, there would be signs such as the mobilization of a number of units, including supply and rear troops, but South Korean military officials have found no such preparations. □



A North Korean vehicle carries a missile during a mass military parade in Pyongyang's Kim Il Sung Square. North Korea has moved a missile with “considerable range” to its east coast, South Korean Defense Minister Kim Kwan-jin said Thursday, April 4, 2013 but he added that there are no signs that Pyongyang is preparing for a full-scale conflict.

(AP Photo/Ng Han Guan)

“considerable range” to its east coast, South Korea's defense minister said Thursday. But he emphasized that the missile was not capable of reaching the United States and that there are no signs that the North is preparing for a full-scale conflict.

North Korea has been railing against U.S.-South Korean military exercises that began in March and are to continue until the end of this month. The allies insist the exercises in South

for its February nuclear test. Analysts say the ominous warnings in recent weeks are probably efforts to provoke softer policies from South Korea, to win diplomatic talks with Washington and solidify the image of young North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. Many of the threats come in the middle of the night in Asia — daytime for the U.S. audience.

The report of the movement of the missile came hours after North Korea's military

has improved its nuclear technology, or a bluff. The North is not believed to have mastered the technology needed to miniaturize nuclear bombs enough to mount them on long-range missiles. Nor has it demonstrated that those missiles, if it has them at all, are accurate. It also could be years before the country completes the laborious process of creating enough weaponized fuel to back up its nuclear threats.

He dismissed reports in Japanese media that the missile could be a KN-08, which is believed to be a long-range missile that if operable could hit the United States.

Kim told lawmakers at a parliamentary committee meeting that the missile has “considerable range” but not enough to hit the U.S. mainland.

The range he described could refer to a mobile North Korean missile known as the Musudan, believed

Obama:

Gun control a tougher slog than immigration

JIM KUHNHENN

Associated Press

ATHERTON,

California

(AP) — President Barack Obama said Thursday that passing new federal gun control measures will be a tougher slog than immigration reform.

Obama told an intimate group of high-dollar donors Thursday he is optimistic im-

migration legislation can succeed within the next few months, because the impact of the November election is breaking through partisan gridlock.

“People spoke out through the ballot box,” he said. “It's going to be tougher to get the kind of gun legislation to reduce gun violence through the Sen-

ate and the House that so many of us, I think, want to see, particularly after the tragedy of Newtown. And I still think it can get done if people are activated and involved.”

It was Obama's most candid assessment yet on the prospects of gun legislation in Congress, an issue he has been pushing since a gun-

man shot and killed 20 children and six educators in a Newtown, Connecticut, elementary school in December. Obama spoke at a campaign event in California for the Democratic National Committee. It was one of four fundraisers he's doing for Democrats this week. Obama made his remarks on the same day

Connecticut's governor, Dannel P. Malloy, signed into law new restrictions on weapons and large capacity ammunition magazines similar to the ones used by the shooter in the Newtown mass murder.

Obama is going to Hartford, Connecticut, on Monday to continue his push for federal gun legislation. □

Column: New swine flu pandemic?

Juliette Kayyem
The Boston Globe

One dead pig in a river is jarring. Two dead pigs are disturbing. Three dead pigs are alarming.

Twenty thousand dead pigs are an epidemic -- but that may be the least of our troubles.

The reports of "Chinese pigs in a river" have been percolating over the last two months as the carcasses of the dead farm animals -- along with those of bloated ducks and even some swans -- have been littering the waterways of China. Nobody knows what is killing the pigs. In a nation that loves its pork, the pig population is about 700 million. But they are dying, and farmers are dumping them in rivers out of fear of government enforcement of laws against unsanitary conditions; by hiding the numbers of dead pigs, farmers may avoid fines.

Last weekend, a new, lethal strain of bird flu, H7N9, was officially identified as the cause of death of two residents of Shanghai, where dead pigs had been spotted floating in a river that supplies about 22 percent of the city's water. The possibility that the pigs may have passed on the virus has put the global health community on high alert. That's appropriate, even if the links are unsubstantiated for now. After all, there are times when it's useful to keep calm and carry on. This is not one of them. A little panic may be useful. China's official explanations for the dead pigs have been unconvincing, including blaming a virus that is deadly only in young swine. That wouldn't explain the dead ducks and swans. Some government officials suggested that the deaths may be due to the country's filthy rivers, turning China's dismal environmental record into its best defense.

China has no dearth of health problems. Statistics released this week based on a report from the British medical journal *The Lancet* attributed 1.2 million

premature deaths in China to air pollution. In scientific terms, it is called "ambient particulate matter pollution." In practical terms, it is responsible for stealing 25 million years of life from China's present population.

But today's scare is not just a matter of concern for China. The nation's insular government, dense population, and environmental ills have already combined to create several global pandemics. The 2003 SARS outbreak began in China, and, by its end, killed about 800 people and caused close to \$50 billion in economic losses. China had originally prevented disclosure of the SARS outbreak, telling nervous global public health officials to take a hike.

So, it is no wonder that this week began a flurry of speculation that the H7N9 strain, identified by China's National Health and Family Planning Commission, was somehow related to the pig deaths. Global health experts, like the Pulitzer Prize-winning author Laurie Garrett, may be predisposed to think in terms of pandemics. But they may also be right: Scientists are already starting to document links between the pig deaths and those of humans. The title of Garrett's piece in *foreignpolicy.com* says it all: "Is This a Pandemic Being Born?"

Never before has this strain of avian flu been found in humans, and one of the three known human victims, a man named Wu, is a butcher. While there is also no evidence of human-to-human transmission, the virus has a high mutational potential. Since no one has any confidence in what the Chinese are saying about the dead animals, there should be a healthy dose of skepticism toward the country's benign explanations for this new virus. The stakes are potentially enormous: The 2009 H1N1 swine flu that killed nearly 300,000 people originated as a mix of bird, swine, and human flu viruses. □

Craigslist killer sentenced to death

THOMAS J. SHEERAN

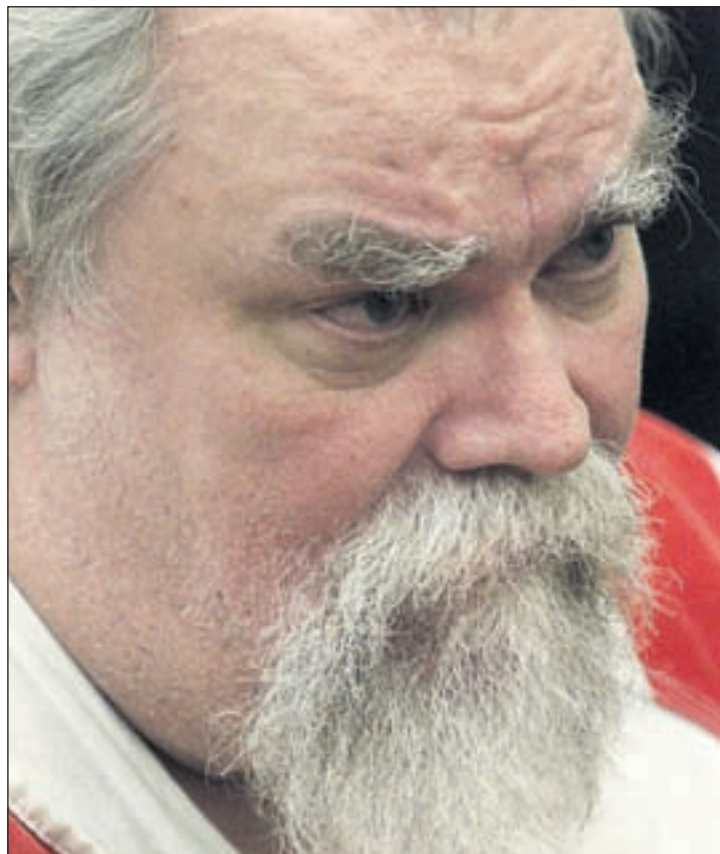
Associated Press

AKRON, Ohio (AP) — A self-styled street preacher was sentenced to death Thursday in the killings of three down-and-out men lured by bogus job offers posted on Craigslist.

The jury that convicted

prison.

Beasley, 53, was convicted of teaming up with a teenager in 2011 to use the promise of jobs on a southeast Ohio farm to lure them into robberies. Three men were killed, and a fourth who was wounded testified at Beasley's trial.



Richard Beasley addresses the court after sentencing in his capital murder case by Summit Common Pleas Judge Lynne S. Callahan on Thursday, April 4, 2013 in Akron, Ohio. Beasley was sentenced to death Thursday in the killings of three down-and-out men lured by bogus job offers posted on Craigslist.

(AP Photo/Paul Tople)

Richard Beasley of murder recommended that he face execution. The judge had the option of reducing the sentence to life in

The judge read the three death sentences in a hushed courtroom crowded with victims' relatives, some of them holding

back tears.

Beasley skipped the chance to speak to the judge before the sentencing on the aggravated murder convictions. He listened to the verdict with his head on his chest, sitting in a wheelchair he uses for back pain.

Later, about to be sentenced on other crimes including kidnapping, Beasley said he sympathized with the families of victims but said he was innocent and expects to have his conviction overturned on appeal.

"I have killed nobody, and that's a fact," Beasley said. "This case will be reversed," said Beasley, whose statement was cut short by the judge. She said he could comment on the sentencing only.

Beasley's co-defendant, who was 16 at the time of the crimes, was too young to face the death penalty. Brogan Rafferty was sentenced to life in prison without the chance of parole on his conviction last year. One victim was killed near Akron, and the others were shot at a southeast Ohio farm during bogus job interviews.

The slain men were Ralph Geiger, 56, of Akron; David Pauley, 51, of Norfolk, Virginia; and Timothy Kern, 47, of Massillon. All were looking for a fresh start in life, prosecutors said repeatedly during the trial. □

New York City:

Fast food workers picket for higher pay

KAREN MATTHEWS

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Hundreds of fast food workers and supporters protested outside New York City restaurants Thursday to demand higher wages for their low-paying jobs, including about 60 who chanted "Hey, hey! Ho, ho! Minimum wage has got to go!" at a midtown Wendy's.

Linda Archer said she has worked at a nearby McDonald's for three years and makes \$8 an hour. The protesters want fast food

restaurants to pay \$15 per hour, almost double the current statewide average pay of \$8.25 per hour. New York City has among the world's most expensive rents.

"I'm asking for respect, I'm asking for \$15, I'm asking for a union, I'm asking for job security," she said. McDonald's said in a statement that it values and respects all the employees who work at its restaurants. New York's minimum wage is \$7.25, but the state Legislature last month voted to raise it

to \$9 by 2016.

The day of picket lines organized by a coalition of unions and community groups followed a similar job action last November. Organizers said they expected hundreds of workers to demonstrate Thursday at dozens of fast food establishments, including McDonald's, Domino's, Wendy's and Pizza Hut. Fast food workers deserve union representation, said Richard Trumka, national president of the AFL-CIO, who stopped by the Wendy's protest. □

Officials: General fired over alcohol, sexual charges

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — An Army major general with the U.S. Africa Command has been relieved of his post in connection with alcohol and sexual misconduct charges, defense officials said.

Officials said Maj. Gen. Ralph Baker, commander of the Combined Joint Task Force-Horn of Africa, was fired from his command last Thursday, and he was fined a portion of his pay by Gen. Carter Ham, head of U.S. Africa Command, after an administrative hearing and review. The officials said Thursday that Ham lost confidence in Baker's ability to command.

Baker has appealed the administrative action to Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel. But since senior commanders such as Ham have broad latitude in decisions to relieve subordinates of command, Hagel's decision may focus more on the financial punishment, officials said. Details of how much his pay was cut were not released. The allegations against Baker involve harassment and inappropriate contact, said the officials, who were not authorized to talk publicly about the case so spoke on condition of anonymity. Baker took over the task force, based at Camp Lemonnier in Djibouti, last May and was scheduled to leave the job in the near future.

He has returned to Washington and is temporarily serving as a special assistant to the director of the Army staff while he awaits Hagel's decision. Such special assistant posts are routinely used as way stations for general officers who are under investigation and awaiting their fate, or for others who have been promoted and are waiting for their new job to open up.

Baker is one in a string of general officers who have been reprimanded or investigated for possible sexual misconduct. □

New York assemblyman accused of corruption

Continued from front

Another lawmaker, Nelson L. Castro, 41, another Democrat from the Bronx, was also implicated in wrongdoing.

He is referred to only as Assemblyman-1 in the complaint since he entered into a non-prosecution deal for assisting in the investigation, which included an agreement to resign once the charges against Ste-

venson was ever caught for what they do they would probably be in the same place," Stevenson said in a recorded conversation, according to the complaint.

Stevenson's lawyer, Murray Richman, said he was still reviewing the charges and would have no comment until he had done so.

Bharara, during a news conference, said that the people of New York should be not just disappointed

tured by Castro, who was working with prosecutors and outfitted with a hidden recorder, and another unnamed confidential witness.

The investigation into Stevenson was prompted by a separate investigation into Castro.

"On July 31, 2009, I was indicted by a Bronx County grand jury for committing perjury in a 2008 civil matter, held prior to my elec-

Martinez, as examples of officials imprisoned after being convicted on charges related to corruption.

At one point, he stepped outside of a restaurant to accept an envelope filled with money rather than doing so inside for fear the exchange would be caught by a security camera.

At another point, in one conversation with the confidential witness, Stevenson, after noting the recent arrests of other politicians, said, "Be careful of those things, man, the recorders and all those things."

Stevenson, who was first elected to the Assembly in 2010, has deep roots in the Bronx community and is the scion of a family who has been involved in public service for decades. His father, Edward A. Stevenson Jr., served as a district leader in the Bronx, and his grandfather Edward A. Stevenson Sr., represented the 6th District in the Bronx in the Assembly.

Before winning his seat in Albany, Eric Stevenson worked as a community coordinator for Fernando Ferrer, the former Bronx borough president.

More recently, Stevenson worked for the City Council from March 2007 through December 2010, making \$57,000 in his final year, according to a spokesman for the City Council Speaker, Christine C. Quinn.

At the City Council, he worked in the legislative unit as a clerk, assigned to record committee votes, maintain legislative records, and file electronic documents.

The criminal complaint unsealed Thursday painted a familiar narrative with lawmakers willing to use the power of their office to provide favors in exchange for money, what Bharara called a "show me the money" culture.

On April 27, 2012, the confidential witness met with Stevenson and discussed the various ways he could help the developers, who already operated several adult day care centers in the city and were looking to erect a new center in the Bronx. □



An adult day care center in New York, April 4, 2013. Eric Stevenson, a New York assemblyman, was arrested Thursday on federal charges of accepting bribes and another lawmaker was forced to quit after a scheme to help developers open adult day care centers was uncovered.

(Chang W. Lee/The New York Times)

venson, 47, were unveiled. The charges against Stevenson came two days after a top lawmaker in Albany, Malcolm A. Smith was arrested in a sprawling and complex bribery and corruption scheme that involved a plot to buy a spot on the ballot in this year's race for mayor of New York City.

A city councilman, Daniel J. Halloran III, along with leaders of the Republican Party in the Bronx and Queens, were also charged in that case.

Stevenson seemed to be acutely aware of the parade of lawmakers accused of wrongdoing, according to the complaint, citing the names of several who have been sent to jail, but also suggesting that many others had escaped prosecution.

"Bottom line, if half of the people up here in Albany

but also angry over the "brazen and blunt" corruption that is "pervasive" in government.

When it is more likely that a state senator will be arrested rather than defeated at the polls, "people should be angry," he said.

Bharara said the selling of legislation raises a number of troubling questions, including whether other laws passed in Albany are the result of bribery and how many items in the budget might have been illicitly put there through graft.

"Whenever corruption is on the rise, that means that democracy is on the decline," he said.

In addition to Stevenson, the complaint charges four businessmen — Igor Belyansky, Rostislav Belyansky, David Binman and Igor Tsimmerman — with taking part in the scheme. Their conversations were cap-

tion to the Assembly," Castro said in a statement released by his lawyer, Michael C. Farkas.

"I agreed to cooperate with the Bronx district attorney's office and, later, the United States attorney's office for the Southern District of New York, in conjunction with various investigations aimed at rooting out public corruption," he said.

"I deeply regret my misconduct while campaigning before I was elected to office."

Stevenson, according to the complaint, seemed cognizant of the dangers of getting caught.

He cites, according to the complaint, former state Comptroller Alan G. Hevesi; former state Sens. Joseph L. Bruno, Carl Kruger and Efrain Gonzalez; former Assemblyman Anthony S. Seminerio; and former City Councilman Miguel

Casino mogul testifies in Vegas in contract suit

HANNAH DREIER

Associated Press

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Casino mogul and Republican Party super-donor Sheldon Adelson made a rare public appearance Thursday as lead witness against a Hong Kong businessman who is suing Adelson's company for \$328 million in a breach of contract case. Adelson blazed a trail of casino riches in Asia after doing the same thing in Sin City as CEO of Las Vegas Sands.

In recent years, a series of former business associates have sued Sands for a portion of the soaring profits from the Chinese gambling enclave of Macau.

One such businessman, Richard Suen, claims he made it possible for the casino company to win a license in Macau by arranging meetings between executives and Beijing officials in 2001.

Sands lawyers say those meetings didn't help the company, because licenses are distributed by officials in Macau, not on the mainland.

On Thursday, Suen's attorneys called for a mistrial during the first hour of testimony by Adelson when

he answered a question about Sands' qualifications to enter to Macau market by pulling out a handful of pamphlets put together by his convention business in the 1980s.

"We have a witness who

son wanted to bring in the brochures and said they had counseled him against it.

Judge Rob Bare declined to declare a retrial. He said the evidence was improperly introduced, but none



Las Vegas Sands Corp. CEO Sheldon Adelson, left, walks into the courtroom with his wife Miriam before taking the witness stand, Thursday, April 4, 2013, in Las Vegas. The casino billionaire and GOP super-donor made a rare public appearance, Thursday, as the lead witness against a Hong Kong businessman who is suing his company for \$328 million.

(AP Photo/Julie Jacobson)

is attempting to take over this courtroom," Suen attorney James Pisanelli said. He said Adelson had stacked the pamphlets in a "dramatic fashion" that made an unforgettable impression on the jury.

Sands attorneys acknowledged knowing that Adel-

of the lawyers were at fault. Adelson arrived at the Las Vegas courthouse wearing a navy suit, blue tie and white shirt with his initials SJA embroidered on the cuff. The longtime supporter of Israel and the Republican Party made headlines last year when he became

made the biggest political donation ever — nearly \$100 million with his wife to help GOP candidates.

His wife, Miriam, led him into the courtroom and he approached the witness stand using a marble-handled cane.

Adelson has a condition known as peripheral neuropathy that makes it difficult for him to walk.

Suen's legal team argued that he shouldn't be escorted to the stand by a family member, as happened in a previous trial, because it would evoke undue sympathy among the jury.

Sands' lawyers have sought to limit media access to the mogul's testimony. The team brought in Harvard professor Alan Dershowitz,

a renowned advocate for open court proceedings, to help argue that press photos of Adelson's day in court could threaten the 79-year-old billionaire's security. That argument was rejected.

Adelson's testimony was expected to last at least two days.

It's the second time Suen and Sands have faced off in court over the Macau issue. In 2008, a jury awarded \$58.6 million to Suen, but the Nevada Supreme Court overturned the verdict in 2010.

That court said the district judge shouldn't have allowed hearsay statements during the trial, and should have told the jury to assume Chinese officials were following local laws. □

MF Global trustee criticizes Corzine

MARCY GORDON

AP Business Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — A trustee overseeing MF Global says a risky trading strategy and "negligent conduct" by former CEO Jon Corzine and his top managers contributed to the brokerage firm's collapse in late 2011.

A report issued Thursday by the trustee, former FBI director Louis Freeh, said Corzine and his team ignored the advice of MF Global's chief risk officer regarding trading strategy. The report said they also failed to fix gaps in the firm's system for monitoring its cash flows and customer funds. MF Global failed after it made a calamitous \$6.3 billion bet on debt issued by Italy, Spain and other European nations with troubled economies.

The New York-based firm filed for bankruptcy protection in October 2011. It was the eighth-largest corporate bankruptcy in U.S. history and the biggest on Wall Street since the September 2008 collapse of Lehman Brothers that set off the financial crisis. More than \$1 billion in customer money was discovered to be missing. Freeh acted on behalf of MF Global creditors. His findings echo those of reports issued last year by another MF Global trustee and a U.S. House panel. "The negligent conduct identified in this report foreseeably contributed to MF Global's collapse," the new report says. While the difficult economic climate at the time and other factors may have hastened the firm's failure, the risky business strategy and con-

duct by Corzine and his team helped fuel its demise, it says.

Corzine, a former Democratic U.S. senator and governor of New Jersey, stepped down as MF Global CEO in November 2011. Steven Goldberg, a spokesman for Corzine, called the trustee's report "a clear case of Monday morning quarterbacking." The report "intentionally ignores" the failure of banks and other firms that were MF Global's trading partners to pay what they owed MF Global "and the profound impact this failure had on MF Global's customers," Goldberg said in a statement.

"There simply is no basis for the suggestion that Mr. Corzine breached his fiduciary duties or was negligent," the statement said. □

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Psychiatrist warned of threat before shooting

Associated Press

DENVER (AP) — A psychiatrist who treated the suspect in last year's Colorado theater shooting told police a month before the attack that James Holmes had homicidal thoughts and was a danger to the public, newly released documents show. The attack killed 12 and injured 70 and was one of the worst mass shootings in U.S. history. The documents released Thursday show Dr. Lynne Fenton told police at the University of Colorado, Denver, that Holmes also threatened and intimidat-

ed her.

Holmes last week offered to plead guilty in the shooting, which occurred during a midnight premiere of the latest "Batman" movie. Prosecutors rejected that offer and said Monday they would seek the death penalty.

The documents had been sealed, but a new judge overseeing the case ordered them released after requests from media organizations including The Associated Press.

In the days after the shooting, campus police said they had never had contact with Holmes, a gradu-



Colorado theater shooting suspect James Holmes, left, and defense attorney Tamara Brady appear in district court in Centennial, Colo.

(AP Photo/RJ Sangosti)

Connecticut governor signs gun control law

Continued from front

"This is a profoundly emotional day for everyone in this room," Malloy said. "We have come together in a way that few places in the nation have demonstrated the ability to do." The massacre at Sandy

Hook elementary school reignited a national debate on gun control, and President Barack Obama has made gun safety one of the defining issues of his second term, which started a month after the shooting. His proposed gun control measures have largely

stalled in Congress, however, and Obama has planned a trip to Connecticut on Monday to increase pressure on lawmakers in Washington.

Connecticut now joins states including California, New York, New Jersey and Massachusetts in hav-

The legislation adds more than 100 firearms to the state's assault weapons ban and creates what officials have called the nation's first dangerous weapon offender registry as well as eligibility rules for buying ammunition. Some parts of the bill would take

ate student at the university. But campus police told investigators that Fenton had contacted them, following her legal requirement to report specific threats to authorities, according to a search warrant affidavit. "Dr. Fenton advised that through her contact with James Holmes she was reporting, per her requirement, his danger to the public due to homicidal statements he had made," the affidavit said. University police referred calls for comment Thursday to a campus spokeswoman who did not immediately return a message. Holmes also sent Fenton a package in the days before the shooting, including a notebook that the documents describe as a "journal."

The package wasn't discovered until four days after the attack. Prosecutors have suggested Holmes was angry at the failure of a once-promising academic career and stockpiled weapons, ammunition, tear gas grenades and body armor as his research deteriorated and professors urged him to get into another profession. Chief Deputy District Attorney Karen Pearson said Holmes failed a key oral exam in June, was banned from campus and began to voluntarily withdraw from the school. □



CAP 2WMark Barden, center, father of Sandy Hook shooting victim Daniel Barden, hugs U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., left, as Barden's wife Jackie, right, looks on at the conclusion of a legislation signing ceremony at the Capitol in Hartford, Conn., Thursday, April 4, 2013.

(AP Photo/Steven Senne)

ing the country's strongest gun control laws, said Brian Malte, director of mobilization for the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence in Washington.

"This would put Connecticut right at the top or near the top of the states with the strongest gun laws," Malte said.

effect immediately after Malloy's signature, including background checks for all firearms sales.

Following a total of more than 13 hours of respectful and at times somber debate, the House of Representatives and the Senate voted in favor of the 139-page bill. □

Assad regime warns Jordan kingdom is “playing with fire”

JAMAL HALABY
ZEINA KARAM

Associated Press

AMMAN, Jordan (AP) —

Jordan tightened security along its border with Syria, doubling the number of soldiers as President Bashar Assad's regime warned Thursday the kingdom is “playing with fire” by allowing the U.S. and other countries to train and arm Syrian rebels on its territory.

The warning, coinciding with significant rebel advances near the border, plays into Jordanian fears that its larger neighbor might try to retaliate for its support of the opposition fighters. The stepped up security also reflects the kingdom's fears that the chaos from Syria's 2-year-old civil war could lead to a failed state on its doorstep where Islamic militants have a free hand. The Syrian warnings followed statements from U.S. and other Western and Arab officials that Jordan has been facilitating arms shipments and hosting training camps for Syrian rebels since last October. A front-page editorial in the government daily al-Thawra accused Amman of adopting a policy of “ambiguity” by training the rebels while at the same time publicly insisting on a political solution to the Syrian crisis.

Jordan is “playing with fire,” state radio said.

“Jordan's attempt to put out the flame from the leaked information will not help as it continues with its mysterious policy, which brings it closer to the volca-

nic crater,” al-Thawra said. Over the years, Syria has accused Jordan of being America's “puppet” because of its strong alliance with the United States and a “spy” for Israel, with which Amman maintains cordial ties under a peace treaty signed in 1994.

A Jordanian security official said the kingdom had tightened security along its 230-mile (370-kilometer) border with Syria, including doubling the number of soldiers in the last two days, though he declined to disclose the size of the force. He said Jordan was also hoping to receive one or two Patriot missile batteries, which the U.S. might temporarily pull out of the Persian Gulf to station on Jordan's northern border. He spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to give official statements to the media.

Jordan's chief of staff, Gen. Mishaal Zaben, said Jordan was installing more cameras, radar and sophisticated early detection equipment to help prevent smuggling and infiltrations across the border and assist Syrian refugees as they cross into Jordan. The equipment will “significantly bolster Jordan's defenses along the border with Syria,” he said.

Still, Jordanian Information Minister Sameeh Maaytah said the political tension with Syria would not evolve into an all-out war.

“Syria must be aware that Jordan has no desire to meddle in its internal affairs

whether by training rebel forces, or facilitating arms shipments to them,” he added. “But Jordan must protect its interests, land, border and people.”

The rebels being trained in Jordan are mainly secular Sunni Muslim tribesmen from central and southern

Syria who once served in the army and police. The force is expected to fill a security vacuum by protecting the border with Jordan, assisting displaced Syrians and setting up a safe haven for refugees.

They are also envisioned as a counterbalance to the

Islamic militant groups that have proven to be among the most effective of the myriad rebel factions fighting Assad's forces on the ground. Chief among these is Jabhat al-Nusra or the Nusra Front, which the U.S. designates as a terrorist group and says is associated with al-Qaida.

“Jordan can't sit idle and watch al-Qaida and other militants seizing control of its common border with Syria,” Maaytah said. “It must take proactive steps to arrive at a state of equilibrium in the security structure on the border.”

Jordan has also long feared that the Assad regime could use chemical weapons against it, or that agents linked to the regime or its allied Lebanese militant group Hezbollah could attack the kingdom. □



Mohammed Zaal al-Ali, left, is sworn in as governor of Hasaka province, by Syrian President Bashar Assad, right, in Damascus, Syria. Assad's regime warned Thursday the kingdom is “playing with fire” by allowing the U.S. and other countries to train and arm Syrian rebels on its territory.

(AP Photo/SANA)

Draghi says ECB looking at new tools for growth

DAVID McHUGH

FRANKFURT, Germany

(AP) — With the economy shrinking and unemployment rising, the head of the European Central Bank said it was looking at new measures to stimulate growth if the hoped-for recovery doesn't start soon. Mario Draghi said Thursday the bank was considering a range of actions to boost lending to companies and reinvigorate the ailing euro region's economy, which has been in recession for a little over a year.

Draghi said the ECB had an "extensive" conversation at its monthly policy meeting about lowering its benchmark interest rate and other ways of jump-starting the region's economy. The eurozone has been weighed down by towering government debt and austerity measures aimed at fixing the problem.

The ECB decided to leave its benchmark interest rate unchanged at 0.75 percent, where it has stood since July 2012.

Analysts took Draghi's remarks, made at the ECB's

monthly news conference in Frankfurt, Germany, as sign that the bank had moved closer to another rate cut or other stimulus measures if there is any sign that the recovery predicted by the bank for the second half of the year is delayed.

Draghi's remarks were "a strong hint they could act very soon," said Christian Schulz at Berenberg Bank in London.

The ECB head was expanding on comments made last month, when he said the bank was "actively reflecting" on new nonstandard measures. This time he said the bank was now "looking at various instruments, various tools."

Draghi didn't say what the ECB is considering to kick-start the economy of the 17 European Union countries that use the euro. Analysts say, however, the bank is mostly likely looking at ways to encourage lending to midsize companies so they can expand and hire.

One way to encourage such lending would be to allow banks to bundle the



Head of the European Central Bank (ECB), Mario Draghi, speaks during a press conference in the ECB headquarters in Frankfurt, Germany Thursday April 4, 2013. The European Central Bank has left its key interest rate unchanged at a record low of 0.75 percent, holding off on further stimulus for the euro area's slack economy - despite signs that a hoped-for recovery may be delayed. (AP Photo/Arne Dedert)

small business loans they make into securities, which they could use as collateral

to get cash loans from the ECB — money they could then lend again.

Another possibility could be allowing banks to have ECB credit for periods longer than the current 3-month maximum — as the bank has already done several times. In late 2011, and again in early 2012, the ECB issued just over 1 trillion euros in low-interest, three-year loans to banks. The measure did help stabilize the eurozone's banks but did not stimulate much new lending to companies.

Draghi said any new approach "wasn't an obvious action" and that the bank was "thinking 360 degrees" on new tactics.

The eurozone is stuck in recession and the ECB says it will shrink 0.5 percent this year, though it predicts a gradual recovery later in 2013. The ECB president stuck to his forecast for a recovery, but said it was "subject to downside risk." Weak economic indicators suggest that the currency union's economy shrank in the first quarter for the sixth quarter in a row.

"We will assess all incoming data and we stand ready to act," Draghi said. □

Woman in Berlusconi trial condemns tactics

LUCA BRUNO
NICOLE WINFIELD
Associated Press

MILAN (AP) — The Moroccan woman at the center of ex-Premier Silvio Ber-

lusconi's sex-for-hire trial, holds up her passport outside Milan's court house, Italy, Thursday, April 4, 2013. (AP Photo/Luca Bruno)



Karima el-Mahroug, also known as Ruby, left, a Moroccan woman at the center of ex-Premier Silvio Berlusconi's sex-for-hire trial, holds up her passport outside Milan's court house, Italy, Thursday, April 4, 2013. (AP Photo/Luca Bruno)

lusconi's sex-for-hire trial held an unusual protest Thursday in front of Milan's courthouse, accusing investigators of waging psy-

chological warfare against her and manipulating her testimony during interrogations. Karima el-Mahroug, better known as Ruby, read out a tearful, six-page

statement denying that she was a prostitute, insisting that she had never had sex with Berlusconi and demanding that the court hear her side of the story. "I have nothing to be ashamed of and nothing to hide," el-Mahroug said. She denounced what she called "psychological torture" directed at her by people pretending to help her and also accused the media of defaming her.

The 21-year-old also admitted, however, that she had lied in the past to hide her poverty-stricken origins. The 76-year-old Berlusconi is accused of having paid for sex with el-Mahroug while she was a teenager during his infamous "bunga-bunga" parties at his villa near Milan, and then trying to cover it up. Both deny sexual contact. El-Mahroug's protest came at a politically sensitive time for Italy, as Berlusconi's center-right party seeks to muscle its way into a governing coalition after coming in second in inconclusive February elections. □

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Thousands of Palestinians protest in West Bank

JOSEF FEDERMAN

Associated Press

JERUSALEM (AP) — Thousands of outraged Palestinians took to the streets of the West Bank on Thursday, joining funeral processions and demonstrations after two protesters were killed by Israeli troops and a Palestinian prisoner died of cancer in Israeli custody. The unrest clouded an upcoming visit by U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and underscored the difficult task he faces as he tries to restart peace talks in the coming months. The demonstrations were among the largest in the West Bank in months, and came amid rising violence. But officials on both sides urged calm, and by nightfall, the situation appeared to be quieting down. Israeli troops had been on heightened alert since Maysara Abu Hamdiyeh, a 64-year-old prisoner, died Tuesday from throat cancer. The Palestinians have blamed Israel for not giving him proper treatment.

Tensions rose further Wednesday when two Palestinian youths were killed in the northern West Bank after throwing firebombs toward Israeli troops. In an apparent show of solidarity with Abu Hamdiyeh, militants in the Gaza Strip fired rockets into Israel for three straight days, drawing Israeli retaliation, in the greatest challenge yet to a cease-fire reached in November. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas said Israel was responsible for the violence, claiming it was trying to divert attention from a four-year standstill in peace efforts. "It seems that Israel wants to spark chaos in the Palestinian territories," he said. "From the beginning, we have said we want stability and calm. Despite that, Israel on every occasion is using lethal force against peaceful young protesters, and peaceful demonstrations are being suppressed with the power of weapons. This is not acceptable

at all." In the most serious unrest, thousands of people took part in a funeral procession for Abu Hamdiyeh in Hebron. The issue of Palestinian prisoners is deeply emotional in Palestinian society. Nearly every Palestinian family has a member or close acquaint-

tance who has spent time in an Israeli prison, and the 4,500 Palestinians being held by Israel are seen as heroes standing up to Israeli occupation. Israel says the prisoners are criminals and terrorists. Abu Hamdiyeh had been serving a life sentence for involvement

in an attempt to carry out a suicide bombing in a crowded Jerusalem restaurant a decade ago. Mourners carried Abu Hamdiyeh's body through the streets of the town, while chanting anti-Israel slogans and burning U.S. flags. □



Palestinians clash with Israeli forces in the West Bank city of Hebron, Thursday, April 4, 2013. Demonstrations first erupted across the West Bank on Tuesday over the death of a Palestinian prisoner who died from cancer. (AP Photo/Bernat Armangué)

France to take part in future Mali peacekeeping

PAUL SCHEMM

Associated Press

RABAT, Morocco (AP) — French troops would take part in a proposed U.N. peacekeeping mission in Mali after they end their task of clearing al-Qaida-linked rebels out of the African country's vast northern region, France's president said Thursday. Francois Hollande made the announcement as he spoke before Morocco's parliament, part of a two-day visit celebrating the two nations' close cooperation. "France will soon complete its mission (in Mali) in a few weeks and African forces will take

over," Hollande said. "The Security Council is going to deploy a peacekeeping operation and France will play its part." He said that scenario was based on the condition that an "indispensable" dialogue take place between various Malian factions and the Mali government in Bamako and on the resumption of the democratic process there. Elections in Mali are planned for July. There are currently two proposals in front of the U.N. for peacekeeping operations, including giving the lead to an African-led force currently on the ground or authorizing a

full U.N.-led force of 11,200 troops that would conduct combat operations and operate alongside a non-U.N. force that would continue counter-terrorism operations. Mali plunged into turmoil after a coup in March 2012

created a security vacuum. That allowed secular rebel Tuaregs, who have long felt marginalized by Mali's government, to take half of the country's vast north as a new homeland. But months later, their struggle was co-opted by

jihadists who imposed strict Islamic law in the north. France launched a military operation on Jan. 11 against the Islamic extremists, many of whom are linked to al-Qaida, after they began moving south and captured key towns. □

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Iran, 6 world powers to meet for nuclear talks

GEORGE JAHN
Associated Press

ALMATY, Kazakhstan (AP)

— Iran and world powers trying to curb Iran's nuclear progress are coming to the negotiating table this week with the window shrinking on diplomacy. Tehran is moving closer to the ability to make atomic arms, and that risks the threat of Mid-east conflict.

Israel says the Islamic Republic is only a few months away from the threshold of having material to turn into a bomb and has vowed to use all means to prevent it from reaching that point. The United States has not said what its "red line" is, but has said it will not tolerate an Iran armed with nuclear weapons.

Any strike on Iran would provoke fierce retaliation directly from Iran and through its Middle East proxies in Syria, Lebanon and Palestine, raising the specter of a larger Middle East conflict. The stakes are clearly high for negotiators from six nations meeting in the Kazakh commercial capital, Almaty, on Friday and Saturday.

While not mentioning the use of force, the United States and Israel both warned Iran ahead of that meeting that they would not allow it to acquire nuclear arms.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Iran is a model of a country that is "talking but at the same time developing nuclear weapons."

"I think that model certainly can't be allowed to hap-

pen in the case of Iran," said Netanyahu Wednesday after meeting with Norwegian Foreign Minister Espen Eide.

In Washington, a senior U.S. administration official

speaking on the issue.

The six — the United States, Russia, China, Britain, France and Germany — hope the talks will result in at least an incremental advance in a decade

Iran wants an end to punishing sanctions crippling its economy. They were imposed to force it to end uranium enrichment, a process that can generate both nuclear energy



EU foreign policy chief Catherine Ashton, left, and Turkish Foreign Minister Ahmet Davutoglu at a joint news conference in Ankara, Turkey, Wednesday, April 3, 2013. Ashton urged Iran to "carefully consider" and respond to proposals put forward by six world powers ahead of nuclear talks with Iran scheduled to take place in Almaty, Kazakhstan later this week.

(AP Photo/Burhan Ozbilici)

urged Tehran to meet demands from the six powers that it scale back on uranium enrichment — a potential path to nuclear weapons — citing President Barack Obama as saying that "all options remain on the table" to prevent Iran from having such arms. The official demanded anonymity as a condition for

of efforts to reduce Iran's bomb-making capacities by curbing its uranium enrichment program.

The two sides parted in February after meeting in Almaty with agreement to at least keep talking over a new proposal submitted by the six. But they remain vastly divided on what they want from each other.

and the core of nuclear weapons. Iran denies any interest in atomic arms, insists its enrichment program serves only peaceful needs, says it has a right to enrich under the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and describes U.N. Security Council demands that it stop enrichment as illegal. □

Police:

Italian priest stole \$5.1M from hospital

NICOLE WINFIELD
Associated Press

ROME (AP) — Italian police on Thursday arrested a priest accused of pocketing 4 million euros (\$5.1 million) from a Catholic hospital he ran and helping run up 600 million euros (\$769 million) in debts that forced it into bankruptcy.

Italy's financial police placed the Rev. Franco

Decaminada, who until 2011 was the CEO of the IDI dermatological hospital in Rome, under house arrest. They also detained two other people while seizing a Tuscan villa that police say Decaminada built with stolen money.

The plight of 1,500 IDI workers who haven't received paychecks for months had prompted Benedict XVI in

one of his last acts as pope to name a delegate in February to take over the religious order that owns the hospital to try to bring it back to financial health.

But in the end the Vatican refused to provide any financial assistance and last week a Rome court certified the hospital as insolvent. □

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Venezuela's Maduro says foes sabotaging power grid

C. TOOTHAKER

Associated Press

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)

— Interim President Nicolas Maduro on Thursday charged that allies of Venezuela's opposition are sabotaging the country's power grid ahead of this month's presidential election.

Maduro ordered the military to safeguard power stations across the country to prevent sabotage ahead of the April 14 vote pitting him against opposition leader Henrique Capriles.

"I have ordered the militarization of all the country's electricity facilities and elaboration of a special protection plan," Maduro told supporters at a campaign rally in the city of San

Carlos.

Maduro said government adversaries have infiltrated Corpoelec, the state-run power company, and he announced that some of its employees would be investigated for allegedly cooperating with opposition groups bent on sabotaging the grid.

"Those employees who are conspiring against the people will go to jail," Maduro said.

Government opponents, he added, are leading "an economic and electrical war against the people."

Maduro's statements came a day after outages knocked out power in central Aragua state and several districts of Caracas, Venezuela's capital.

The Prosecutor's Office



Venezuela's acting President Nicolas Maduro gestures to supporters from a stage as he campaigns in San Carlos, in Cojedes state, Venezuela, Thursday, April 4, 2013. The presidential election to replace Venezuela's late President Hugo Chavez is scheduled for April 14.

(AP Photo/Ariana Cubillos)

launched an investigation led by Rafael Larios, Aragua's top prosecutor, shortly after Maduro spoke to his supporters.

"There will be technical inspections of Corpoelec's installations with sabotage experts," the state-run AVN news agency quoted Larios as saying.

Military officers will also participate in the investigation, Larios said.

Despite billions of dollars of investment over the last decade, regions throughout this oil-rich South American country have struggled with blackouts in recent years.

Opposition politician Delsa Solorzano rejected Maduro's accusations, saying that the government is to blame for the blackouts. □

Colombian Minister: No evidence FARC has missiles

VIVIAN SEQUERA

Associated Press

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)

— Colombia's defense minister and armed forces chief said Wednesday that there is no evidence the country's main leftist rebel group has surface-to-air missiles, following a statement by the top U.S. military official for Latin America suggesting they do.

Southern Command chief Gen. John Kelly told the U.S. Senate Armed Services Committee in a posture statement the week before Easter that the "hundreds of millions of dollars in revenue the FARC receives from cocaine trafficking alone enable them to purchase surface-to-air-missiles." Colombian Defense Minister Juan Carlos Pinzon and armed forces chief Gen. Alejandro Navas told reporters when questioned after a military ceremony

that they had no evidence that Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, FARC in its Spanish initials, have surface-to-air-missiles.

Southcom spokesman Jose Ruiz, responding to an

email query, later said the only thing he could add to Kelly's statement "is that the U.S. Southern Command is aware the FARC was in possession of the SA-7 man-portable surface-to-air mis-

sile system (MANPADS)." Navas told reporters that while captured documents have shown the FARC's intention of acquiring such missiles Colombia's military had no evidence of that,

though Southcom "has more and more up-to-date information." Pinzon said at least two old used and discarded surface-to-air missiles had been found two years ago. □



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Caribbean Briefs

Plane crash in Bahamas kills 3 along runway

NASSAU, Bahamas (AP) — A medical evacuation plane crashed as the pilot tried to make a night landing at a small airstrip in the Bahamas early Thursday, killing three people, including a Canadian citizen, police said. Police said in a statement that the pilot was trying to land with the light of headlamps from two trucks that had been driven up to the runway on Mayaguana island. The plane's wing hit one truck and it spewed fuel as it spun into the second, which exploded, killing three people inside. The pilot survived. The victims were identified as Edith Collie, 81, her daughter, Enamae Collie, who was in her 30s, and her husband, Canadian citizen Tim Polowick. All were residents of Mayaguana. Sidney Collie, the elderly woman's son, said they were trying to make the night landing because one of his uncles needed to be airlifted to the capital of Nassau for medical reasons.

Turks & Caicos cruise port to reopen in days

PROVIDENCIALES, Turks & Caicos Islands (AP) — The tourist board in the Turks & Caicos Islands says a cruise terminal on Grand Turk is scheduled to reopen next week. Cruise lines started cancelling port calls to Grand Turk Cruise Center on March 11 after passengers suffered from symptoms of gastroenteritis. The roughly 18-acre cruise port with a shopping center and numerous food and beverage outlets closed shortly afterward. On Thursday, the tourist board said stakeholders and local public health officials were "confident that all measures have been taken to ensure the health and safety" of patrons. They say port calls by cruise ships will resume Monday. □

Caribbean officials seek to curb dirty money

DAVID McFADDEN
Associated Press

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP) — Finance officials from 13 Caribbean island nations and territories met on Thursday in Antigua to brainstorm ways of strengthening anti-money-laundering efforts and asset forfeiture. It's an uphill battle in the Caribbean, which U.N. experts consider a top destination for the laundering of cocaine income. Last year, eight Caribbean countries or territories were designated by the U.S. as jurisdictions of "primary concern" for money laundering. Convictions for the crime are rare on the islands, mostly tiny British overseas dependencies or independent nations that were once former colonies of Britain. U.S. officials recently reported that there have been just six money-laundering convictions since 2006 in the Cayman Islands, the world's sixth largest financial center. There were none in the Bahamas in 2011.

On Thursday, participants included the heads of financial intelligence units from 13 Caribbean territories or countries, including the offshore finance powerhouses of the Cayman Islands and the British Virgin Islands. The prime minister of Antigua, where convicted fraudster R. Allen Stanford based his tropical financial empire as part of

a \$7.2 billion Ponzi scheme, attended portions of the two-day conference. Money laundering expert Jeffrey Robinson, a main speaker at the Antigua meeting, said he believes financial intelligence units in the Caribbean are trying

always playing catch-up," Robinson said in a Thursday phone interview from Antigua. Robinson recommends that Caribbean islands with offshore financial centers embrace total transparency and stop offering

Development to help build financial investigation capacity in the Caribbean. In 2011, Andrew Mitchell, then the British development secretary, said the goal of the assets recovery program was to help Caribbean law enforcement agencies confiscate some \$8 million worth of crime proceeds by 2015.

That's a tiny fraction of the overall problem, according to Nicholas Shaxson, author of "Treasure Islands: Tax Havens and the Men Who Stole the World" and a writer for the London-based Tax Justice Network. "Britain has for decades pretended that there are no problems with its Caribbean overseas territories and others, and politically speaking things haven't changed much in London," he said in a Thursday email.

Shaxson asserted that the UK appeared to be motivated by "a desire to make improvements at the margin, without seriously disrupting the system, and to improve public relations for the Caribbean tax havens so that they can poach business from other tax havens outside the British system," such as crisis-stricken Cyprus.

Washington is also providing support for Caribbean law enforcement and judicial officials trying to get financial crime cases prosecuted. □



Last year alone, eight Caribbean countries or territories were designated by the U.S. as jurisdictions of "primary concern" for money laundering.

(Handout Photo)

their best to interrupt the flow of dirty money. Robinson said that in earlier decades, the islands "weren't doing anything."

"They are trying their best to get into it. But the bad guys are very good. The bad guys have the best lawyers, the best accountants, bankers in their pocket. They know what they're doing. The good guys are

anonymous shell companies, trusts and international business companies.

The two-day regional meeting was hosted by Antigua's Office of National Drugs and Money Laundering Control Policy and funded by a Caribbean criminal assets recovery program launched last year by the British Department for International

Haiti historian who chronicled capital dies at 88

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)

— Georges Corvington, a prominent Haitian historian best known for his exhaustive study of the Caribbean nation's capital of Port-au-Prince, died Wednesday at age 88, a close friend said. Fellow historian and longtime friend Georges Michel said that Corvington died peacefully in his sleep at his home in the capital he wrote so much about. Michel said Corvington had recently spent a few weeks in the hospital and the cause of death was heart failure.

"He's a giant that has fallen," said Michel, who is

also a physician. "He was the greatest living Haitian historian."

The office of President Michel Martelly said that with Corvington's passing the country had lost a "treasure of inestimable value." It said his history of Port-au-Prince "traced with astonishing accuracy the history of our capital over several decades."

Georges Michel said that his friend's eight-volume, French-language "Port-au-Prince Through the Ages" chronicled the political and social history of Port-au-Prince, from its founding under French colonial rule

in 1749 to the departure of President Paul Magloire in 1956.

Born in Port-au-Prince, Corvington began writing in the 1970s, collecting thousands of books that eventually formed a seemingly unmatched library collection. In addition to his work about the capital, a hilly coastal city that eventually swelled to an estimated 3 million people, Corvington also wrote about the National Palace and National Cathedral, iconic buildings that were destroyed in the 2010 earthquake that devastated much of Port-au-Prince.

Corvington himself narrowly survived the earthquake that toppled thousands of shoddily made buildings. When the disaster struck in the late afternoon on Jan. 12, 2010, Corvington was trapped under the debris of his home for about an hour before neighbors rescued him.

He was not injured.

After the quake, the United Nations cultural agency UNESCO issued a call to protect Haitian artifacts from being pillaged from the country's destroyed historical sites, and helped Corvington salvage his own archives. □



Divi Resorts' Excellence Awards Easter Edition for the First Quarter 2013

DRUIF BEACH - The Human Resources Department organized its Excellence Awards, Easter Edition, for the 1st Quarter to honor the different anniversaries and also the nominees for Employee and Supervisor of the Quarter.

The Nominees for Employee of the First Quarter for Divi/Dutch & Golf were: Marie Damis F&B, Virgilio Erasmus Engineering, Nadira Rajkumar Front Office, Civil Ariste Landscaping, Lea Joseph Housekeeping, Luis Feliz Housekeeping, Ronald Feliciano Landscaping, and Rolando Macabulos Outside Operations; and the winner was Virgilio Erasmus from the Engineering Department. The nominees for Supervisor of the First Quarter for Divi/Dutch & Golf were: Marta Ligia Coes Housekeeping, Giandra Pietersz Engineering, and Xiomara Piedrahita Housekeeping; and the winner was Marta Ligia Coes from Housekeeping Department.

The Nominees for Employee of the First Quarter for Divi & Tamarijn were: Elisia Jeannesil Kitchen, Diana Valencia Kitchen, Jose Ridderstap Pool, Randall Thiel Storeroom, and Fabian Bermudez Engineering; and the winner was Randall Thiel from the Warehouse Department.

The Nominee and winner for Supervisor of the First Quarter for Divi & Tamarijn was: Hernan Sanao from the Tamarijn Kitchen Department.

Celebrating their 5th Anniversary were: Consuelo Cruz Housekeeping Divi/Dutch, Rith Altidor Housekeeping Divi/Dutch Caricenne Ulysse Kitchen Divi/Dutch, Rashir Navas Engineering Divi/Dutch, Ryan



Maduro Front Office Divi/Dutch, Norma Cuevas Kitchen Divi/Dutch, Maria Jansen Landscaping Divi/Dutch, Anuar Labad Kitchen Divi Golf, Oveida Kock Mulligans Divi Golf, Gunther Dijkhoff Kitchen Divi Golf, Nicolaas Tromp Engineering Divi Golf, Elvy Fernandez Landscaping Divi Golf, Felix Abreu Mulligans Divi Golf, Dominador Torres Landscaping Divi Golf, Egbert Franken Mulligans Divi Golf, Jennifer Lugo Mulligans Divi Golf, Jacinto Thomas Windows Divi Golf, Tonito Koolman Windows Divi Golf, Marcelino Wouters F&B Tamarijn, Tony Williams F&B Tamarijn, Annemiek Wouters Front

Office Tamarijn, Verita Benita Accounting Tamarijn, Sharenda Clarinda Human Resources Tamarijn, Marisol Mendez Kitchen Divi, Elsa Noguera Kitchen Divi, Georgio Arends Storeroom Divi, and Elisia Jeannesil Kitchen Divi.

Celebrating their 10th Anniversary were: Rasheed Khan Engineering Ducth Village, Mildred Esguerra Executive Office Divi/Dutch, John Dunlock F&B Tamarijn, Elvis Perez F&B Tamarijn, Maribel Medrano Housekeeping Tamarijn, Ludwiska Romano Pbx Tamarijn, John Rios Bar Tamarijn, Carmen Carrasco Kitchen Tamarijn, Olinda Marlin

F&B Tamarijn, Janine Thiel Front Office Divi, Jose Castillo Luna Landscaping Divi, Yvandrick Alexis Kitchen Divi, Clairlira Jean Kitchen Divi, Gertrude Belzius Kitchen Divi, and Randolph Simon Bar Divi.

Celebrating their 15th Anniversary were: Shirley Lobo F&B Divi/Dutch, Andrea Davis Hk Tamarijn, Elvis Jack F&B Tamarijn, Siltro Donato Warehouse Divi, and Vivian Semeleer Kitchen Divi.

Celebrating their 20th Anniversary were: Lorraine Krind Front Office Divi/Dutch, Maria Esguerra Human Resources Tamarijn, Osbaldo Correa Front Office Tamarijn,

Roberta Vrolijk Reservations Tamarijn, Marion Mclennon Housekeeping Tamarijn, Maria Croes Kitchen Divi, and Teodora Becker Housekeeping Divi. Celebrating their 25th Anniversary were: Justina Granda Housekeeping Divi/Dutch, Carmen Hernandez Housekeeping Divi/Dutch, Pauline Romano Housekeeping Divi/Dutch, Silvia Gonzalez Housekeeping Tamarijn, Jenny Martinus Laundry Tamarijn, Angela Arndell F&B Tamarijn, Johan Bosnie F&B Tamarijn, Rita Maduro Housekeeping Divi, Henry Beyde Engineering Divi, Marta Pineda Kitchen Divi, Jeanette Tromp F&B Divi, Anjer Thode Bar Divi, and Maria Terrero Kitchen Divi. Celebrating their 30th Anniversary were: Michael Maduro F&B Tamarijn, Ilberto Peña F&B Tamarijn, and Leslie James Engineering Divi.

Celebrating their 35th Anniversary were: Marie Kingsale Kitchen Divi, Yvonne Baptiste Housekeeping Divi, and Albertis Murray F&B Divi.

Celebrating their 40th Anniversary were: Reynaldo Paesch Bar Tamarijn, and Sandra Barroso Housekeeping Divi.

Congratulations to all the nominees and winners and thank you to all the employees celebrating their anniversaries with the company.

Your hard work and dedication has been appreciated!

There was also a fun egg hunt at the end of the award ceremony where many employees could win some wonderful prizes. Thank you to all once again! □

Beth Israel Synagogue Aruba announces: Yom HaShoah Commemoration to be held Sunday at sunset at the Anne Frank statue



ORANJESTAD - Please join us this Sunday, April 7, 2013, at 6:00 pm for a memorial service marking the Holocaust Day in the Jewish calendar, "Yom Hashoah Ve-Hagevurah- the Day of Remembrance of the Holocaust and the Heroism. The gathering honoring the memory of those who died in the Shoah through prayer, song and silence, will take place at the Anne Frank statue, in Wilhelmina Park, Oranjestad. □

A sweet beginning: First McDonald's Dessert Center opening soon at Paseo Herencia!

ORANJESTAD - Arcos Dorados, largest McDonald's franchisee and operator of the largest quick service restaurant chain in Latin America and the Caribbean, announced the company will soon be opening its first McDonald's Dessert Center segment in Aruba. This new segment will offer an all dessert menu located in Paseo Herencia Shopping & Entertainment

nity for McDonald's and Arcos Dorados provides a major force in the economic development of the island.

About Arcos Dorados Arcos Dorados is the world's largest McDonald's franchisee in terms of systemwide sales and number of restaurants, operating the largest quick service restaurant ("QSR") chain in Latin America and



Center at Palm Beach, and is set to open in early April. The Dessert Center will offer McDonald's popular McFlurry, Sundaes, Cones and Shakes. With this new segment, Arcos Dorados contributes to the economy of Aruba by creating new employment opportunities with new positions as Crew and Hostess. Aruba will have the seventh McDonald's Dessert Center in the Caribbean region. Arcos Dorados recently opened its third McDonald's in Aruba, at Seroe Blanco which has the second McCafé in Aruba, a coffee-house-style food and drink chain owned by McDonald's. The first McCafé in Aruba was last year at the High Rise, Palm Beach store. The first McDonald's restaurant in Aruba is located at Santa Cruz. For more than two decades, Aruba has been a very important commu-

the Caribbean. It has the exclusive right to own, operate and grant franchises of McDonald's restaurants in 20 countries and territories, including Argentina, Aruba, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Curacao, Ecuador, French Guyana, Guadeloupe, Martinique, Mexico, Panama, Peru, Puerto Rico, St. Croix, St. Thomas, Trinidad & Tobago, Uruguay and Venezuela. Arcos Dorados operates or franchises 1,948 McDonald's-branded restaurants with over 90,000 employees serving approximately 4.3 million customers a day (as of December 31st, 2012). Recognized as one of the best companies to work for in Latin America, Arcos Dorados is traded on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE: ARCO). To learn more about the company please visit our website: www.arcosdorados.com. □

Beauty On The Beach

Emily Graham

She is from New Jersey, USA. It is her first time in Aruba and she is on her honeymoon.

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AAA figures from March 22 to March 31, 2013:

Easter 2013 showed an increase in commercial aircraft movements



ORANJESTAD - Aruba Airport Authority N.V. (AAA) together with the other authorities at the airport prepared ahead of time for the expected high traffic during this Easter season and can now look back on a successful Easter season 2013:

While less charter flights

from Venezuela were expected than the previous year, the amount of commercial flights however showed an increase compared to 2012: From 1131 aircraft movements in 2012 to 1179 movements in 2013. AAA was also focusing on the General Aviation flights, as construction works are

currently being performed and in the past years the demand for the private airplanes facility showed a substantial increase. However, this Easter season the amount of private movements has decreased compared to last year, but is still higher than 2011: From 1068 aircraft movements in

2012 to 846 in 2013.

"The investments made at the south side ensured that the apron didn't have to be closed off for air traffic at any time during the busy season, as was the case in the last years. Besides this extra parking capacity, the extra manpower, extra buffer zone at the south side

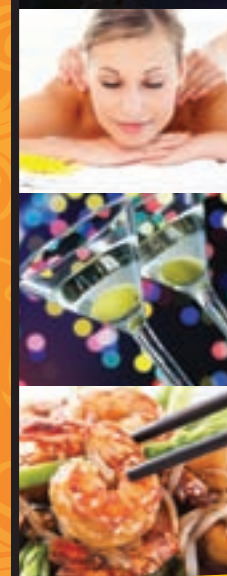
and preparation ahead of time proved to be successful for this busy season and we're very happy that even though it was hectic, our passengers were handled efficiently, while still receiving a warm felt treatment at the airport," said AAA's CEO Mr. Peter Steinmetz. □

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CASINO AND SHOPS

Welcome Back Loyal Bugaloe Guests Nelson and Kelly!



PALM BEACH - Bugaloe Beach Bar & Grill welcomes guests of the week, Floridian Kelly Hilker and local Nelson Oduber Jr. This special story starts when the two met in Santa Cruz, California and since then Kelly has been coming to

Aruba. What they like most about the island is the crystal clear waters, the fantastic weather and the kind people.

Mostly they like Bugaloe for the bartenders and waitresses, making it just a great hangout spot! Their favorite item on the menu is the Chicken Sate, accompanied with a Mojito.

The funniest memory of Bugaloe is when Kelly celebrated her birthday at Bugaloe and the crew had hung a piñata in the middle of the dance floor, and she had to keep hitting it till it broke! The Bugaloe Crew would like to thank Kelly and Nelson for being loyal Bugaloe guests and hope to see them more often! □



More Sizzling Action at the Casino at the Radisson!

PALM BEACH - Over the Easter holiday, three lucky Poker players shared more than \$51,000.00, when they won the loaded Bad Beat Poker Jackpot, at the Casino at the Radisson.

In addition to sizzling Poker action, the casino also conducted three high-stake bingo marathons giving away more than \$20,000 in Jackpots and prizes.

While the Bad Beat Jackpot is again starting to grow, the casino's Caribbean Stud Poker Jackpot currently stands on over \$40,000 and the Bingo

Progressive available to all bingo players each Saturday & Sunday boasts \$28,832, in cash.

Orlando Vrolijk on the casino's marketing team reports that a great number of fun activities are scheduled at the casino weekly and the general public is invited to also experience sports betting, at the casino lounge, with room to view the TV screens and otherwise catch a wide variety of sporting events which will be offered in the coming months.

Casino guests are invited to place their bets from the



convenient, self-service sport betting kiosk capable of delivering any sport event in real time.

The fully automated kiosk displays odd, scores, injuries and even the weather, allowing customers to make educated bets, during the casino opening hours from 12 noon to 4am, and weekends from 11am to 4am.

The self-service sport bet-

ting kiosk asks customers to follow a simple set of instructions and also processes bets well into the future with an option for customers to collect their winnings on sporting events taking place in the coming months.

As the Masters Golf Tournament unfolds in April, the Kiosk will also provide self serve betting, access to handicapping services

and sports information on the summer baseball games, as well as College and NFL football. Soccer lovers may follow the World Cup in Brazil and bet on their favorite teams including a full range of complimentary services such as ticket and event reservations.

The sports book betting kiosk is ready to serve customer seven days a week. □





NBA Capsules



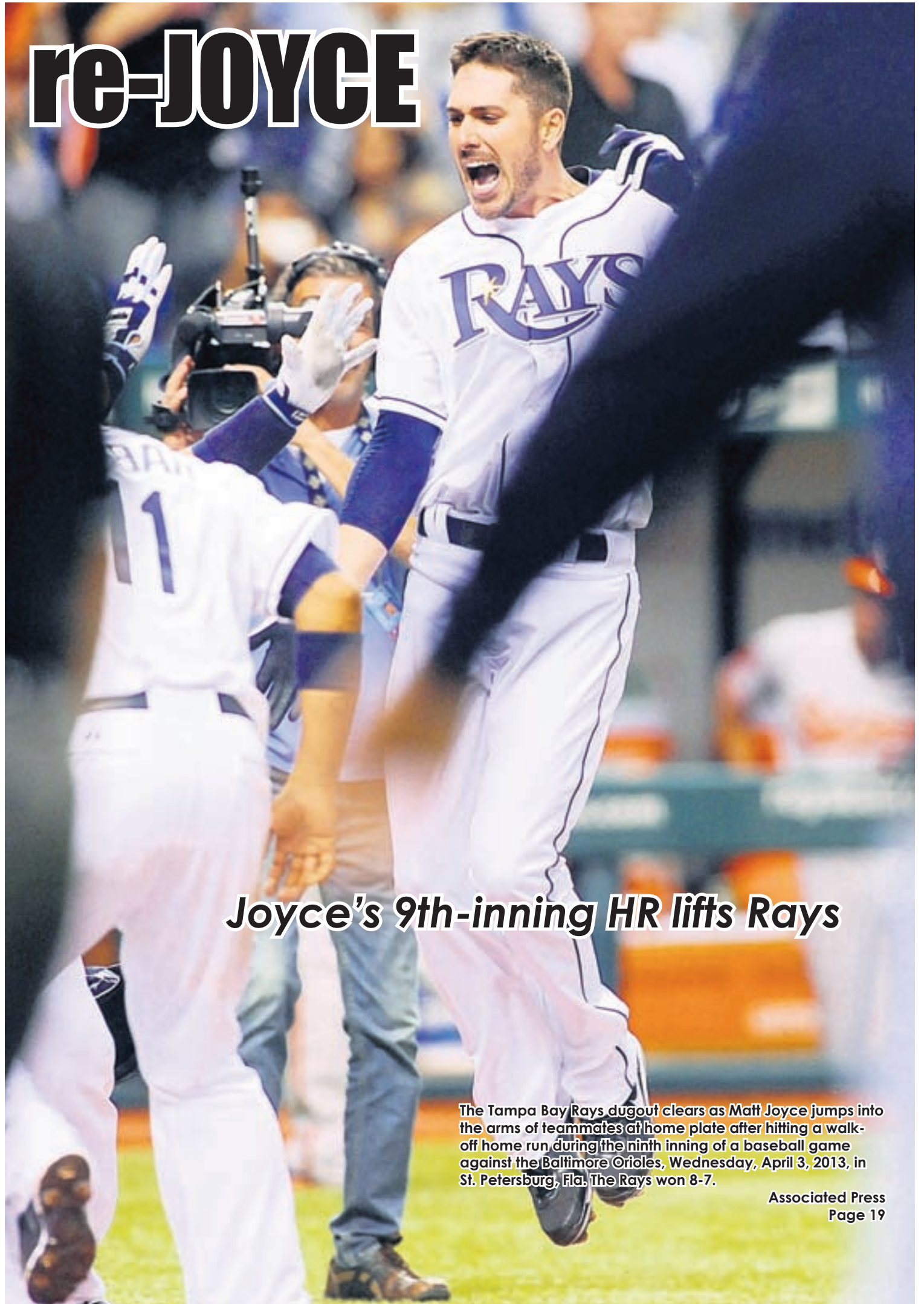
New York Knicks' Carmelo Anthony, center, puts up a shot past Atlanta Hawks' Kyle Korver, left, and Shelvin Mack in the fourth quarter of an NBA basketball game, Wednesday, April 3, 2013, in Atlanta. New York won 95-82.
Associated Press

Anthony scores 40, Knicks win 10th straight

The Associated Press
ATLANTA (AP) — Carmelo Anthony scored 40 points — giving him 90 in two games — and Raymond Felton had three straight baskets in a key spurt, helping the New York Knicks beat the Atlanta Hawks 95-82 on Wednesday night for their 10th straight victory. Anthony, coming off a 50-point effort in a win over Miami on Tuesday, scored 24 points in the first half. He shot 17 of 27 from the field and was 5 for 6 from the free throw line. Felton sparked a 12-2 run that turned a tie game into an 84-74 lead for the Knicks. He scored eight of his 12 points in the fourth quarter to help the Knicks move into sole possession of second place in the Eastern Conference.

Continued on Page 21

re-JOYCE



Joyce's 9th-inning HR lifts Rays

The Tampa Bay Rays dugout clears as Matt Joyce jumps into the arms of teammates at home plate after hitting a walk-off home run during the ninth inning of a baseball game against the Baltimore Orioles, Wednesday, April 3, 2013, in St. Petersburg, Fla. The Rays won 8-7.

Associated Press
Page 19

Bettencourt, Tomasulo share lead at Texas Open



Padraig Harrington, of Ireland, hits from the rough on the 18th hole during the first round of the Texas Open golf tournament, Thursday, April 4, 2013, in San Antonio.

Associated Press

KURT VOIGT
AP Sports Writer

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Matt Bettencourt and Peter Tomasulo shot 5-under 67s to take a surprising share of the lead after the first round of the Texas Open on Thursday, holding off a field that includes world No. 2 Rory McIlroy.

The two took advantage of warmer and calmer afternoon conditions and held a one-stroke lead over a group of four players — including three-time major winner Padraig Harrington — at 4 under.

Harrington and Billy Horschel shared the lead following the morning tee times, battling chilly and windy conditions. They were joined by Bryce Molder and Harris English at 4 under in the afternoon.

McIlroy, who entered the tournament as a final opportunity to prepare for next week's Masters, opened with a 72 and is tied for 45th.

Playing in the final group of the day, Tomasulo posted the only bogey-free round of the day. Entering the tournament on a medical exemption following a rib

injury two years ago, he closed with a 10-foot birdie putt on the par-5 18th.

Bettencourt made the tournament as an alternate after Henrik Stenson withdrew. He had a two-year exemption on the PGA Tour after winning the Reno-Tahoe Open in 2010, but it ended at the end of last season. He had bounced between the PGA and Web.com tours this season, making only one cut in five events.

Bettencourt played like anything but a journeyman on Thursday, crediting a recent medication change in helping to control his asthma and jitters that resulted from other inhalers. His lone bogey came on No. 4, and he took the lead from Harrington with a birdie on No. 17.

Harrington, the former British Open and PGA Championship winner from Ireland, overcame the chilly temperatures to go as low as 5 under before finishing with a bogey on No. 18. He began his day with four layers of clothing to stay warm as the Texas winds whipped in from the north. McIlroy, meanwhile, con-

tinued the up-and-down play that has plagued him throughout the year and cost him the No. 1 ranking to Tiger Woods. He was 2 under early in his round, which began on difficult No. 10, but he found the water on the par-5 18th when his approach came up short.

That began a stretch of three straight bogeys, and he missed a 7-foot par putt on No. 9 to fall back to even par.

While McIlroy struggled, Horschel continued to show the form that led to a second-place finish at last week's Houston Open. He jumped from 60th to 24th on the money list following last week's performance, and he tied Harrington on Thursday with a final-hole birdie on No. 9.

Horschel had six birdies, including a stretch of four in five holes midway through the round, and he did so despite hitting only seven of 14 fairways. He and Harrington had just 25 putts each, while McIlroy needed 31.

Ten players, including Jim Furyk, are two shots back of the lead at 3 under. □



Jelena Jankovic, of Serbia, returns to Jessica Pegula, of the United States, at the Family Circle Cup tennis tournament in Charleston, S.C., Thursday, April 4, 2013.

Associated Press

Jankovic advances at rainy Family Circle Cup

CHARLESTON, South Carolina (AP) — Former world No. 1 Jelena Jankovic advanced to the quarterfinals of the Family Circle Cup after a 7½-hour rain delay on Thursday that prevented a number of players from getting on the court, including Serena and Venus Williams. Serena, riding an 11-match winning streak in Charleston, was scheduled to play American qualifier Mallory Burdette, while Venus was to face Varvara Lepchenko for a spot in the quarterfinals. Both matches were rescheduled for Friday. The rain fell steadily at the Family Circle Tennis Center until early evening when crews were finally able to start drying the large puddles on the gloopy, green clay courts.

Once play began, ninth-seeded Jankovic — the 2007 Family Circle champion — needed just 64 minutes to oust 19-year-old American Jessica Pegula in straight sets. Pegula won the first two professional matches of her career this week before falling to the Serb, 6-0, 6-4. Stefanie Voegelé of Switzerland also defeated 10th-seeded Julia Goerges of Germany, 3-6, 6-1, 6-3. Second-seeded Caroline Wozniacki of Denmark moved on without hitting a groundstroke when Andrea Petkovic of Germany withdrew with a calf injury a few hours before their scheduled match. The long rain delay means the year's first

clay-court event has some ground to make up to finish by Sunday. There are still four third-round matches to be played on Friday before the quarterfinals are set. Serena Williams, who was not sharp despite winning her opening match over Camila Giorgi on Tuesday, will have waited almost three days to play again. Venus defeated 19-year-old Monica Puig in three sets Wednesday night.

The sisters would each need to win twice more to set up an all-Williams semifinal here. They haven't met in a tournament since 2009. Both have enjoyed championship moments at the Family Circle Cup. Serena won titles in 2008 and 2012. Venus won the crown in 2004 and last September clinched the winning points as the Washington Kastles took the World Team Tennis title on Billie Jean King Court. Other delayed matches included sixth-seeded Lucie Safarova against 11th-seeded Sorana Cirstea and the all-American encounter between Madison Keys and Bethanie Mattek-Sands. Cirstea, like Serena Williams, also hasn't played since winning on Tuesday. Jankovic said it was difficult keeping sharp and loose as the delay stretched through the afternoon. "I wanted to take a nap, but I couldn't," she said. "We joked that if they rained it out, we have a go shopping day." □

Red Sox chill Yanks, 2-0 for first time since 1999

The Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Clay Buchholz chilled the Yankees' bats, speedy Jackie Bradley Jr. got his first major league hit as the Boston Red Sox beat New York 7-4 on a cold Wednesday night to open a season with consecutive wins for the first time since 1999. Pitcher Hiroki Kuroda became the latest Yankees player to get hurt, leaving in the second inning with a 2-0 deficit, four batters after Shane Victorino's line drive bruised the middle finger of his pitching hand. While the Red Sox under new manager John Farrell are off to their best start since going 5-0 in 1999, New York has been outscored 15-6 and out-hit 26-15.

The Yankees have failed to hold a lead at any point in their opening two games for the first time since 1998. Boston burst ahead 6-0 with a four-run third against Cody Eppley, and the Yankees never challenged. Buchholz (1-0) allowed one run and six hits in seven innings. Joel Hanrahan pitched the ninth for his first save with Boston. New York said Kuroda (0-1) was being sent for X-rays



Boston Red Sox's Jackie Bradley Jr., watches his third-inning, RBI single against the New York Yankees during a baseball game at Yankee Stadium in New York, Wednesday, April 3, 2013.
Associated Press

and other tests.

RANGERS 4, ASTROS 0

HOUSTON (AP) — A day after Yu Darvish came within one out of a perfect game, Alexi Ogando and four Texas relievers shut out Houston again, combining for a five-hitter. Lance Berkman doubled in a run for the Rangers a day after they blanked the Astros 7-0 behind Darvish's nearly historic gem. Ogando (1-0) allowed four hits with a career-high 10 strikeouts in 6 1-3 innings.

The young and inexperienced Astros have struck out 43 times in their first three games. It's the most strikeouts a pitching staff has combined for in the first three games of a season in major league history, and the most since Cleveland fanned 42 in the first three of the 1966 season. Philip Humber (0-1) allowed a run and five hits over 5 2-3 innings in his Astros debut.

RAYS 8, ORIOLES 7

ST. PETERSBURG, Florida

(AP) — Matt Joyce led off the bottom of the ninth inning with a towering home run against Tommy Hunter, giving Tampa Bay the victory. Shelley Duncan hit a three-run homer and Ben Zobrist had a pair of RBI singles for the Rays, who twice came from behind before wasting a late two-run lead. Fernando Rodney (1-0) blew a save opportunity by allowing a run for the first time since last Aug. 18. Brian Roberts' RBI double off

Rodney in the ninth made it 7-all.

Chris Davis went 4 for 4 for the Orioles, hitting a three-run homer for the second straight day and driving in four runs.

Joyce, who had a bunt single as a pinch hitter in the seventh, won it by homering on a 2-1 pitch from Hunter (0-1).

INDIANS 3, BLUE JAYS 2

TORONTO (AP) — Mark Reynolds hit a tiebreaking home run in the 11th inning for Cleveland.

Reynolds drilled a leadoff shot into the second deck off Sergio Santos (0-1), the fifth Blue Jays reliever.

The homer helped the Indians overcome a blown save by Chris Perez, who surrendered a tying shot by Jose Bautista in the ninth.

The overhauled Blue Jays lost their second straight to begin the season.

Toronto's offense has just three runs and nine hits in two games.

Matt Albers (1-0) got one out for the win, and Joe Smith finished for his first save.

WHITE SOX 5, ROYALS 2

CHICAGO (AP) — Adam Dunn hit one of Chicago's four homers, leading Jake Peavy and the White Sox to the victory. □



Atlanta Braves Evan Gattis, is swarmed by teammates Freddie Freeman, left rear, and Jason Heyward, right, after hitting a home run against the Philadelphia Phillies during the fourth inning of a baseball game, Wednesday, April 3, 2013, in Atlanta.
Associated Press

The Associated Press

ATLANTA (AP) — Justin Upton, Jason Heyward and rookie Evan Gattis homered, helping Paul Maholm and the Atlanta Braves beat the Philadelphia Phillies 9-2 on Wednesday night.

Freddie Freeman had three RBIs as the Braves chased Roy Halladay in the fourth inning. Upton belted a two-run shot in the first to give him a pair of homers in his first two games for Atlanta. Halladay (0-1), who struggled with a sore shoulder

Braves beat Phillies behind Freeman, Upton

last season and had a difficult spring training, gave up five runs and six hits in 3 1-3 innings. The two-time Cy Young Award winner struck out nine, but dropped to 0-4 with an 8.00 ERA in his last seven starts against Atlanta. The game was played in a steady drizzle, but the conditions hardly affected Paul Maholm (1-0), who allowed six hits in 5 2-3 scoreless innings. He struck out six and walked one. Gattis led off the fourth inning of his first major league game with a drive to left. The Phillies were just 1 for 11 with runners in scoring posi-

tion.

DIAMONDBACKS 10, CARDINALS 9, 16 INNINGS

PHOENIX (AP) — Cliff Pennington's single in the 16th inning brought home Jason Kubel from second to give Arizona a victory over St. Louis in a game that didn't end until early Thursday.

At 5 hours and 32 minutes, it was the longest home game in Diamondbacks history as far as time elapsed and tied for the longest at home in terms of innings.

Yadier Molina drove in three runs, including a leadoff home run that put St. Louis up 8-7 in the sev-

enth, but Aaron Hill's RBI single tied it at 8 before both teams scored a run in the 12th. The Diamondbacks came from behind four times to either take the lead or tie the game.

Paul Goldschmidt and Martin Prado each hit a two-run homer, and Gerardo Parra homered, tripled and singled for the Diamondbacks.

NATIONALS 3, MARLINS 0

WASHINGTON (AP) — Left-hander Gio Gonzalez homered, providing all the offense necessary to back his six scoreless innings, and Washington picked up another win. □

NHL Roundup

Newcomers lift Rangers to 6-1 rout of Pens

The Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Ryane Clowe, Derick Brassard and John Moore injected instant offense just hours after being acquired by the Rangers, as New York scored a season-high three power-play goals in a surprisingly dominant 6-1 victory over the Pittsburgh Penguins on Wednesday night.

Clowe came to New York on Tuesday night in a trade with San Jose, and Brassard was part of the package New York received on Wednesday in the deal that sent star forward Marian Gaborik to Columbus right before the NHL trade deadline.

Clowe scored two goals — after netting none for the Sharks in 28 games this season — and added an assist, and Brassard had a goal and three assists for the Rangers, who scored three times in the first period and never looked back. Brian Boyle and defenseman Ryan McDonagh added goals, and Henrik Lundqvist stopped 26 shots in the Rangers' highest-scoring game of the season.

The Rangers won their second straight home game, scoring a combined 10 goals in the victories after a pair of shutout losses, and moved into a tie with the New Jersey Devils and New York Islanders with 39 points at the bottom of the



Pittsburgh Penguins' Deryk Engelland (5) and Marc-Andre Fleury (29) stop a shot on the goal by New York Rangers' Carl Hagelin during the second period of an NHL hockey game, Wednesday, April 3, 2013, in New York.

Associated Press

Eastern Conference play-off race.

Pascal Dupuis scored in the second period for the Penguins, who lost for the second consecutive night after 15 consecutive victories, two shy of tying the NHL record for longest winning streak.

FLYERS 5, MONTREAL 3
PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Wayne Simmonds and Erik Gustafsson scored goals late in the third period and Philadelphia won a third straight game for the first time this season as it makes a push for a playoff spot.

The Flyers had been 1-11 when trailing after two periods.

With the Flyers trailing 3-2, Simmonds tipped in the puck from the crease for the tying goal. Less than 2 minutes later, Gustafsson's pass for Matt Read went off a defenseman and into the net past a stunned Carey Price for his 10th goal and a 4-3 lead.

Jakub Voracek scored an empty-netter with 39 seconds left.

Sean Couturier and Simon Gagne also scored for the Flyers. Alexei Emelin, Brandon Prust and David Desharnais scored for Montreal.

DUCKS 5, STARS 2
ANAHEIM, California (AP) — Captain Ryan Getzlaf

had a goal and two assists, and Teemu Selanne scored his 673rd career goal in Anaheim's victory over Dallas.

Viktor Fasth made 23 saves and Radek Dvorak scored his first goal for Anaheim in the second of three straight meetings in five days between the Pacific Division-leading Ducks and the last-place Stars, who lost 4-0 in Dallas on Monday.

Lane MacDermid scored his first NHL goal in his Dallas debut, and Kari Lehtonen stopped 22 shots in the Stars' first game since trading Jaromir Jagr to Boston and Derek Roy to Vancouver. Erik Cole also scored for the Stars.

Kyle Palmieri snapped a 13-game goal drought and Andrew Coglianone scored an empty-net goal as the Pacific Division-leading Ducks improved the NHL's third-best record to 25-7-5.

SHARKS 4, WILD 2
SAN JOSE, California (AP) — Dan Boyle scored on a spectacular end-to-end rush with a two-man advantage to help San Jose win its sixth straight game. Marty Havlat got the scoring started for San Jose and Joe Thornton broke a tie with a goal off the skate of a Minnesota defender late in the second period. TJ Galiardi also scored and Antti Niemi made 31 saves to help the Sharks move into a tie for fourth place in

the Western Conference. Charlie Coyle and Dany Heatley scored for the Wild, who lost for the third time in four games following a seven-game winning streak. Niklas Backstrom made 29 saves as Minnesota lost consecutive games for the first time since Feb. 12-14 to fall into a tie for the Northwest Division lead with Vancouver.

OILERS 8, FLAMES 2
CALGARY, Alberta (AP) — Taylor Hall had a goal and four assists in helping Edmonton win its fifth straight with the rout of reeling Calgary. With 12 games to go, Edmonton sits eighth in the West, one point up on the St. Louis Blues and the Nashville Predators. The Columbus Blue Jackets are two points back.

Jordan Eberle and Nail Yakupov scored two goals apiece, and Sam Gagner, Ryan Whitney and Ryan Nugent-Hopkins had one goal each for Edmonton. Matt Stajan had both goals for Calgary. The Flames have lost seven of their last nine to remain second from the bottom in the West and 28th overall. Winless in its last 11 road games, Calgary begins a three-game road trip Friday in San Jose. In other NHL games it was N.Y. Rangers 6, Pittsburgh 1; Philadelphia 5, Montreal 3; Edmonton 8, Calgary 2; Anaheim 5, Dallas 2; and San Jose 4, Minnesota 2. □

Pistorius runs again on blades at Pretoria track

GERALD IMRAY

AP Sports Writer

JOHANNESBURG (AP) —

Oscar Pistorius has been running on his blades again and his return to regular training is imminent, his agent says.

It is the first time it has been confirmed that the athlete has run since he was charged with the Valentine's Day shooting death of girlfriend Reeva Steenkamp.

A grainy cellphone photo of what appears to be Pistorius on the track at the University of Pretoria was published Thursday on the front page of the



In this Sept. 5, 2012 file photo, South Africa's Oscar Pistorius competes during Men's 100m T44 round 1 at the 2012 Paralympics in London.

Associated Press

Afrikaans-language Beeld

newspaper in South Africa. The photograph — taken by a high school student from a bus passing by the track —

shows the double amputee at some distance wearing his unmistakable blades and dark lycra running clothes and walking on a track with his hands on his hips.

In response to the newspaper's claim that Pistorius had begun training as much as two weeks ago, his family denied that he was on "any official training program" and had only been out running "on a number of isolated oc-

casions."

"Each time has been very difficult and he has struggled immensely with the decision to even leave the house," Arnold Pistorius, Oscar's uncle, said in the statement.

But the family had encouraged Pistorius to get back on the track, his uncle said. The photo was taken on March 24 by teenager Lisa Smith, her field hockey coach said, when their team was visiting the University of Pretoria, where Pistorius' regular practice facility is.

The Associated Press reported on Wednesday

that Pistorius had been at the track in the South African capital on the day of the photograph and had done some jogging. It was the first time Pistorius had pulled on his running blades since he shot Steenkamp dead in his home in the early hours of Feb. 14, his agent, Peet van Zyl, told the AP later on Thursday. Pistorius was only "having a jog around the track," the agent reiterated, as the newspaper claimed sources had told it the Olympic 400-meter runner and Paralympic champion had begun full training at the university on March 21. □

NBA Capsules

Continued from page 17

Atlanta missed an opportunity to move into a tie for fourth in the East and wasted a 25-point effort by Kyle Korver, who came up two points short of his season high.

CLIPPERS 126, SUNS 101

LOS ANGELES (AP) — DeAndre Jordan had 20 points and 12 rebounds, Chris Paul added 14 points and 12 assists, and Los Angeles beat Phoenix for its franchise-record 50th win. Willie Green and Caron Butler scored 15 points each, and Blake Griffin had nine points, seven assists and five rebounds to help the Clippers end a three-game skid with their second-highest scoring total of the season. They improved to 50-26 overall, bettering the single-season record for wins set in 1974-75 when the team was in Buffalo. They're 29-9 at home.

Wesley Johnson scored 20 points and Jermaine O'Neal added 18 for the last-place Suns, who have lost seven straight overall.

SPURS 98, MAGIC 84

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Danny Green scored 20 points and Gary Neal added 16 to pace depleted San

Antonio to a victory over Orlando. A 14-2 run that included a pair of 3-pointers by Green midway through the fourth finally allowed the Spurs to take control. Before the run, San Antonio appeared sluggish and unable to pull away from the Magic, who trailed 74-70 with 10:37 remaining. Already without Manu Ginobili, the Spurs rested Tony Parker and Kawhi Leonard, and used Tim Duncan for only 14 minutes. Maurice Harkless scored 18 points for Orlando.

Nuggets 113, Jazz 96

SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — Danilo Gallinari scored 21 points, including nine straight in the fourth quarter, and Denver ended Utah's winning streak at five.

Utah fell a half-game behind the idle Lakers for the eighth playoff spot in the West. Kenneth Faried added 19 points for the Nuggets, who won three of four against Utah this season and are in third place in the West, two games ahead of the Clippers. Gordon Hayward led the Jazz with 18 points, while Al Jefferson and Paul Millsap

scored 16 apiece for Utah, which made 19 3-pointers in two previous games but was just 6 of 20 from beyond the arc in this one.

NETS 113, CAVALIERS 95

CLEVELAND (AP) — Deron Williams scored 24 points and Brooklyn ended an eight-game road trip by crushing Cleveland, giving the Nets a record for road wins in a season.

The Nets shot 83 percent (15 of 18) in the second quarter, when they outscored the Cavs 38-16 and opened a 30-point lead without much of a fight. Brooklyn's 21 road wins are the most for the franchise, which moved to the New York City borough from New Jersey this season.

MarShon Brooks made his first 10 shots and finished with a career-high 27 points for the Nets, who haven't played at home since March 17 because the circus is at Barclays Center. Kyrie Irving scored 16 points for the Cavs, who have lost 10 straight.

GRIZZLIES 94, TRAIL BLAZERS 76

PORTLAND, Oregon (AP) — Mike Conley scored 20 points and Memphis set a franchise record for wins in a season with a victory over Portland. □



New York Knicks' J.R. Smith hangs from the rim after dunking the ball in the fourth quarter of an NBA basketball game against the Atlanta Hawks, Wednesday, April 3, 2013, in Atlanta. New York won 95-82.

Associated Press

Lance Armstrong drops out of Masters swimming event

JIM VERTUNO
AP Sports Writer

AUSTIN, Texas (AP) — Lance Armstrong is pulling out of the pool. U.S. Masters Swimming Executive Director Rob Butcher said Thursday that Armstrong will not swim three distance events in the Masters South Central Zone Swimming Championships at the University of Texas this weekend after swimming's international federation body raised objections.

"He doesn't want to cause any more harm to any more organizations," Butcher told The Associated Press. "His interest was around fitness and training. In light of FINA and the other political stuff, he will not be swimming." Although Butcher said Arm-

strong withdrew from the event, he likely didn't have a choice after FINA raised objections to his participation. An Armstrong spokesman did not immediately respond to an email requesting comment. The U.S. Anti-Doping Agency banned Armstrong from sanctioned competition for life for his use of performance-enhancing drugs during a cycling career that included seven Tour de France titles. Butcher had said Wednesday that Armstrong, who is a U.S. Masters Swimming member, would be allowed to compete in his 40-44 age group because the master's event did not fall under USADA drug testing rules.

But FINA sent a letter to U.S. Masters Swimming officials,



In this Oct. 7, 2012, file photo, Lance Armstrong competes in the swimming portion of the Rev3 Half Full Triathlon in Ellicott City, Md.

Associated Press

saying that because U.S. Masters Swimming is under its umbrella as a sanctioning body, it must recognize the World Anti-Doping Code and bar Armstrong from competition. □

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<p>NEW THIS WEEK</p> <p>Dwayne Johnson</p>	<p>NEW THIS WEEK</p> <p>Susan Sarandon</p>

Bird flu 101: How bad is the new H7N9 strain?

MARGIE MASON
AP Medical Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) - A bird flu virus never before found in humans has grabbed world attention this week after it infected and killed people in China. Scientists have been scrambling to understand how it happened and, more importantly, whether it poses a risk to public health or could potentially spark a global pandemic.

The good news is that so far there's no sign that the H7N9 virus is spreading from person to person, but experts say it has mutated in a way that has left them a bit worried. Here's a crash course in Bird Flu 101 to help explain what's known about the strain and why it matters:

Q: What is the H7N9 virus and what do we know about it?

A: The H7N9 strain — named for the combination of proteins on its surface — has infected at least 14 people in China since February, killing five of them, the official Xinhua News Agency said. The latest cases were confirmed Thursday, four days after the initial announcement. Symptoms include fever and respiratory problems, including severe pneumonia. Much still remains unknown about the virus, including how people are getting infected, but scientists say it contains genetic markers that could help it infect humans. It is believed to be able to circulate in poultry stocks without sickening birds. This can allow it to spread in flocks unnoticed, making it much harder to track and also possibly creating more contamination since the birds are surviving and spending more time on farms, in markets and elsewhere.

Q: How concerned should the public be about the H7N9 virus?

A: At this point, experts say there is no cause for alarm, but they are watching it closely. No evidence exists that the virus is spreading from person to person,

and no cases have been reported outside China. Samples are being collected from patients, and the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention is sharing genetic sequences with outside scientists.

This allows the world's top flu experts to study the virus and look for mutations that could make it more dangerous. Poultry and its products are safe to eat as long as they are properly cooked.

Q: Is there a vaccine?

A: No vaccine exists, but the World Health Organization and its partners are already working to isolate and identify possible candidate viruses that could be used to make a future

vaccine if necessary. However, it would likely take months to produce the first doses.

Q: What changes are scientists seeing in the virus and why is this important?

A: Although it is not yet clear, the virus appears to have mutated in a way that would make it easier for it to adapt and grow at normal body temperature in mammals. Scientists are working to figure out which species could now be playing host to the virus, and one possibility is pigs. Swine are important because they share some basic biological similarities with humans, and they can serve as "mixing vessels" if infected with different flu strains at the same time.

Other possibilities are that the mutations could be occurring in poultry or they are being generated after people are infected by birds. "To me, the most important question to find out is: What is the actual host of this virus?" said Richard Webby, director of a WHO flu center at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee. "It really looks like there's been some mammalian host involved."

Q: How is this bird flu different from the H5N1 strain everyone has been so concerned about in the past?

A: The H5N1 virus is highly lethal in birds, making it easier to identify and eliminate poultry outbreaks. H5N1 remains an avian influenza and has not taken root in another species, such as pigs. Most human infections have been linked to contact with infected birds. Scientists have been closely watching the virus since it first appeared in Hong Kong in 1997. It resurfaced in 2003 and decimated poultry stocks across Asia and has since killed at least 371 people. About 60 percent of those infected die, and experts have long feared the H5N1 virus could mutate into a form that spreads easily from person to person, possibly igniting a pandemic. □



A woman and her daughter are frightened while ducks approach closely for food at an amusement park in Beijing, China, Wednesday, April 3, 2013. Scientists taking a first look at the genetics of the bird flu strain that recently killed two men in China said Wednesday the virus could be harder to track than its better-known cousin H5N1 because it might be able to spread silently among poultry without notice. The bird virus also seems to have adapted to be able to be able to sicken mammals like pigs. (AP Photo/Alexander F. Yuan)

An MS drug takes a feisty approach

ELIZABETH OLSON
© 2013 New York Times

The Swiss drugmaker Novartis is taking a sassy new tack to win converts to its oral multiple sclerosis treatment, Gilenya. Its "Hey MS, Take This!" campaign shows patients sticking out their tongues with Gilenya capsules on them to show their willingness to fight back against the neurological condition.

The campaign, which begins this week, is aimed at younger people with multiple sclerosis, a chronic autoimmune disease with symptoms like fatigue, difficulty in walking and blurred or double vision. The campaign will be in national print outlets, including a half-dozen national magazines like People, Shape and Self, and on the websites of women's magazine. A television-style online video will also be available on social media outlets.

"MS strikes in the prime of life, and many patients use the Web and social media

to connect," said Dagmar Rosa-Bjorkeson, head of Novartis' multiple sclerosis unit. "Many are now being diagnosed in their 20s and 30s, and early treatment makes the most impact, so we are trying to target those people who are active and digitally savvy."

The campaign's upbeat tone comes, Rosa-Bjorkeson said, from sentiments patients expressed on blogs and other forms of social media where "people were saying that 'this disease is not going to stop me.'" "Those were spirited words, with an edginess and power to them that wound up giving the campaign a bolder tone," she said. Novartis is trying to set the Gilenya campaign apart from other pharmaceutical advertising.

All such ads must conform to federal regulatory strictures that consumers receive balanced information that not only includes the drug's effectiveness but also enumerates its risks

in consumer-friendly language.

"Since it was approved in 1997, direct contact advertising with consumers has led to a fairly conservative pharma culture," said Bill Daddi, president of Daddi Brand Communications. "It sometimes leads to people looking at the ads to ask, 'What's worse, the symptoms or the cure?'"

"But it also encourages people to speak up about their symptoms, which they didn't always do before," he said. Gilenya is in an increasingly crowded treatment market. It is one of three oral therapies that have been approved recently to treat multiple sclerosis, a condition thought to occur when the body's immune system attacks its nerve fiber insulation.

The Novartis drug is aimed at the most prevalent form of multiple sclerosis, called relapsing, in which the condition can flare up and intensify impairment of neurological function. □

Facebook unveils 'Home' Android product

BARBARA ORTUTAY
MICHAEL LIEDTKE
AP Technology Writers
MENLO PARK, California
(AP) — With its new "Home"

on Android gadgets, Facebook aims to put its social network at the center of people's mobile experiences.

Facebook has introduced software called Home that makes the social network the hub of any smartphone running Google's Android operating system. The idea behind the software is to bring Facebook content right to the home screen, rather than requiring users to check apps.

"Home" comes amid rapid growth in the number of people who access Facebook from phones and tablet computers.

Available for download starting April 12, the service is part of Facebook's move to shift its users' focus from "apps and tasks" to people, said CEO Mark Zuckerberg during Home's unveiling at the company's Menlo Park, California, headquarters on Thursday. The new product, which can reside on the home screen of Android phones, is a family of apps designed around people's Facebook connections.

Rather than see a set of apps for email, maps and other services on the screen, users will be greeted with photos and updates from their Facebook

feeds.

"We think this is the best version of Facebook there is," Zuckerberg said.

Zuckerberg says users can have an experience on Android phones that they can't have on other platforms. That's because Google makes the software available on an open-source basis, allowing others to adapt it to their needs.

The move that coincides with rapid growth among the number of users who access the social network from smartphones and tablet computers and Facebook's aim to evolve from its Web-based roots into a "mobile-first" company.

"What Facebook wants is to put itself at the front of the Android user experience for as many Facebook users as possible and make Facebook more elemental to their customers' experience," said Forrester analyst Charles Golvin.

In addition to Home, a new HTC phone that integrates the service will also be available starting April 12, with AT&T Inc. as the carrier.

The move could help to attract more mobile advertisers. Though mobile ads were a big concern for Facebook's investors even before the company's initial public offering last May, some of the worry has subsided as the company muscled its way into the market.



Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg speaks at the company's headquarters in Menlo Park, Calif., Thursday, April 4, 2013.

Associated Press

Last year, Facebook began showing ads to its mobile audience by shoe-horning corporate-sponsored content into users' news feeds, which also include updates from friends and brands they follow. Facebook now faces the challenge of showing people mobile ads without annoying or alienating them. The mobile advertising market is growing quickly, thanks in large part to Facebook and Twitter, which also entered the space in 2012. Research firm eMarketer expects U.S. mobile ad spending to grow 77 percent this year to \$7.29 billion, from \$4.11

billion last year. EMarketer said Wednesday that it expects Facebook Inc. to reap \$965 million in U.S. mobile ad revenue in 2013. That's about 2.5 times the \$391 million in 2012, the first year that Facebook started showing mobile ads. Clark Fredricksen, vice president at eMarketer,

says "there are some clear reasons why a deeper integration with mobile operating systems and handsets make sense for Facebook. At the end of the day, the more deeply Facebook can engage consumers, no matter what device or operating system or handset," the better. □

BlackBerry-maker RIM stops BBM music service

TORONTO (AP) — BlackBerry-maker Research In Motion says it is silencing its streaming music service barely two years after it launched.

The Canadian company emailed BlackBerry Messenger Music subscribers this week to notify them that the cloud-based service will stop working on June 2.

RIM said Thursday the decision follows a "strategic business review" of its offer-

ings.

BBM Music launched in August 2011 as a \$4.99-per-month service that allowed BBM obsessed users to swap song recommendations and share music with friends.

But there were limitations — each user could only share up to 50 songs from a catalogue of millions of tracks for their own personal playlist.

Existing subscribers to the service are being offered



□ In this Jan. 30, 2013 file photo, the BlackBerry Z10 smartphone is displayed in New York.

Associated Press

a free 30-day trial to competing service Rdio. □

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Stocks move higher on Wall Street; Best Buy soars

STEVE ROTHWELL
AP Markets Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The Dow Jones industrial average closed higher Thursday, regaining half of its plunge the day before, as buyers returned to the market.

The Dow rose 55.76 points, or 0.4 percent, to close at 14,606.11. On Wednesday it dropped 111, its worst fall in more than a month, following weak reports on hiring and service industries. The decline was enough to make stock prices seem attractive again.

"Investors have been looking for a reason to sell, given the rally we've seen in the market in the past couple of months," said Joseph Tanious at JPMorgan Funds. "Today, you're seeing investors come back

into the market and buy on the dip." The stock market got off to a strong start in 2013. The Dow climbed 10 percent in the first three months of the year and closed at a record high of

14,662 Tuesday. Investors have been encouraged by signs that the housing market was recovering and that hiring was picking up. The market continued a steady advance

through the first two weeks of March, but since then indexes have been alternating between gains and losses on a nearly daily basis as investors' confidence in the U.S. economic recovery weakened.

There was more discouraging economic news Thursday. The number of Americans seeking unemployment aid rose to a four-month high of 385,000 last week, the Labor Department said. The government will issue its employment report Friday, which investors look at closely for insight into how the U.S. economy is doing.

"The trend seems to be worsening," said Peter Cardillo, chief market economist at Rockwell Global Capital. "We're seeing a

little hesitation in anticipation of tomorrow's job report." Safer industry groups rose Thursday. Telecommunications companies and utilities led the gains for the S&P 500, rising 1.3 percent and 0.9 percent.

So-called defensive industries, such as health care, consumer staples and utilities, which have stable earnings and dividends, have led the market rally this year. Investors have been seeking out stocks that give them similar characteristics to debt investments after a powerful rally in bonds over the last year pushed yields sharply lower. The yield on the benchmark 10-year Treasury note has traded below 2 percent for most of the last year. The 10-year yield fell to 1.76 percent Thursday from 1.81 percent a day earlier, within a fraction of its lowest level of the year.

The note's yield has declined over the last month as demand for less risky assets increased following the financial crisis in Cyprus and signs of a slowdown in the U.S. The yield was as high as 2.06 percent on March 11. Japanese stocks jumped and the yen sank after the country's central bank announced aggressive measures for getting the world's third-largest economy out of a two-decade slump. The Bank of Japan, under new Governor Haruhiko Kuroda, surprised markets by saying it would greatly increase the country's money supply with the goal of encouraging people and businesses to borrow and spend. The yen weakened 3.6 percent against the dollar, to 96.33 yen, while Tokyo's Nikkei stock index rose 2.2 percent to 12,634.54.

U.S.-listed shares of Japanese automakers rose sharply. A weaker yen would make Japanese vehicles less expensive in markets outside Japan, and therefore more competitive. The U.S. shares of Toyota rose \$4.75, or 4.7 percent, to \$105.63, Honda's rose \$2.01, or 5.4 percent, to \$39.21 and Nissan's rose \$1.03, or 5.5 percent, to \$19.85. □



In this Thursday, April 4, 2013, photo, Trader Anthony Riccio, left, and specialist Peter Giacchi work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. (AP Photo/Richard Drew)

Toyota, Honda shares boosted by Japan stimulus

DETROIT (AP) — U.S. shares of Toyota, Honda and Nissan soared Thursday as investors anticipated that a weaker yen will allow them to sell cars more cheaply in the critical U.S. market. The Bank of Japan plans to increase the amount of cash in circulation, a move

fect of the weaker yen will be blunted because those companies have previously moved so much of their production to North America. The yen weakened 3.5 percent against the dollar. Shares of Ford Motor Co. and General Motors Co.

cious of what they're doing and why," Akerson said. A weaker yen helps Japanese carmakers because it lowers the cost of producing cars in Japan. Cars built more cheaply there and then imported and sold in the U.S. bring higher profits to Japanese companies. Standard and Poor's analyst Efraim Levy said the most immediate impact for consumers will be lower prices for Japanese cars. Toyota could undercut its rivals because its production costs are lower. In the longer term, Levy said, the company might add more features at a lower price.

But Levy said the impact of a lower yen won't be as great as in the past. Japanese automakers have been moving production to North America since the 1980s, in part to avoid currency fluctuations. Several are in the midst of expanding production in North America.

Ninety percent of the vehicles Honda sells in the U.S., such as the Accord and Civic, are made in North America.

Honda plans to expand that to 95 percent next year with a new plant in Mexico. Toyota makes 70 percent of the cars and trucks it sells in the U.S. in

North America. The Prius hybrid and Lexus cars are among the vehicles it still makes in Japan.

Nissan, which makes the midsize Altima and the Rogue crossover in the U.S., expects that 85 percent of the vehicles it sells in the U.S. will be made in North America by 2015.

Currency is just one factor that goes into the complicated business of making and pricing cars. Steel prices, supplier costs and other variables could offset Japan's advantage. Most important, Levy said, is offering competitive vehicles.

"If you have the product the consumer wants, you can overcome any currency issues," he said.

That's an advantage U.S. automakers enjoy right now. U.S. sales for GM, Ford Motor Co. and Chrysler Group jumped 9.5 percent in the first quarter, compared with a 3.2 percent increase for Asian brands, according to Autodata Corp.

The Detroit automakers control more than 80 percent of the full-size pickup truck market, which is the fastest-growing segment right now. And cars such as the newly redesigned Ford Fusion are gaining ground on older models like the Toyota Camry. □



Dancers introduce a brand-new Toyota Vios at the Bangkok Motor Show in Bangkok, Thailand. U.S. shares of Toyota, Honda and Nissan soared Thursday as investors anticipated that a weaker yen will allow them to sell cars more cheaply in the critical U.S. market. (AP Photo/Sakchai Lalit)

that will depress the value of the yen against the dollar. That will lower the cost of producing Japanese imports for Americans.

Shares of Toyota, Honda and Nissan all rose more than 4 percent as some analysts predicted a drop in Japanese car prices. But they also say the ef-

fell slightly.

GM CEO Dan Akerson told CNBC Thursday that he's worried the Bank of Japan's actions will give Japanese automakers a price advantage in the U.S., the world's second-biggest car market after China.

"They're an export economy. You have to be suspi-

VITAL SIGNS:

Where US economy has, and hasn't, yet recovered

C. S. RUGABER

AP Economics Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) —

From household wealth to spending at stores, many of the U.S. economy's vital signs have recovered from the damage done by the Great Recession.

Home foreclosures and layoffs have dropped to pre-recession levels. Economic output has rebounded. And the Dow Jones industrial average is in record territory. So is the economy back to full health? Not quite. Not with unemployment at 7.7 percent and with 3 million fewer jobs than when the recession began. And while the housing market is improving, that engine of economic growth and job creation still has far to go before it can be declared healthy. Perhaps the best way to think about the U.S. economy is this: After five painful years, it's nearly back to where it started when the recession began. What's different now is that the trends are much healthier. Gone are the fears that the economy could fall into another recession. "We've made a lot of progress," says Michael Gapen, senior U.S. economist at Barclays Capital.

The recession officially began in December 2007. It ended in June 2009. Here's a look at ways in which the economy has returned to pre-recession levels and ways it hasn't:

WHAT'S BACK:

— **HOUSEHOLD WEALTH:** Americans lost \$16 trillion in wealth during the recession, mainly because home values and stock prices sank. Those losses have now been reversed. Household "net worth" reached \$66.1 trillion in the final three months of 2012, according to the Federal Reserve. That was just 2 percent below the peak reached in the fall of 2007. And steady increases in stock prices and home values so far this year have allowed Americans as a whole to regain all their lost wealth, though many individual families have yet

to recover. Increased net worth is vital to the economy because it typically drives more spending. Net worth equals the value of homes, investments, bank accounts and other assets, minus debts such as mortgages, student loans and credit card balances.

— **RETAIL SALES.** Just as household wealth has recovered, so has consumers' willingness to spend more to shop, eat out or go on vacation. That trend has spurred job growth at retailers and restaurants. Retail sales totaled \$421.4 billion in February. Adjusted for inflation, that was nearly 18 percent above the recession low and just 0.7 percent below the record level in November 2007.

— **LAYOFFS.** The job market remains weak by some measures. But consider this: If you have a job, you're less likely to lose it than at any other point in at least 12 years. That marks a sharp turnaround from the depths of the recession, when layoffs soared — from 1.8 million in December 2007 to 2.6 million in January 2009. In January this year, employers cut 1.5 million jobs — the lowest monthly total in the 12 years the government has tracked such data. That explains why the number of people seeking first-time unemployment benefits each week has plummeted. That number reached 667,000 one week in March 2009, the most in nearly 25 years. Over the past month, weekly applications have averaged 354,000, only slightly more than in December 2007.

— **FORECLOSURES.** Among the most visible signs of the recession were the "Foreclosure" and "Bank Owned" signs that dotted housing developments around the country. But home prices have been rising steadily. Foreclosures have sunk back to pre-recession levels. Banks repossessed 45,000 homes in February 2013, according to RealtyTrac, a foreclosure listing firm. That was the fewest since September 2007 and was down

from a peak of 102,000 in March 2010.

— **STOCK MARKET.** Last month, the stock market finally regained the painful losses investors suffered during the recession. The Dow Jones industrial average closed at an all-time high of 14,253.77 on March 6. That topped its previous peak of 14,164.53 in October 2007. The Dow had plunged all the way to 6,547.05 in March 2009. It closed even higher on Tuesday at 14,662.01. And the Standard & Poor's 500 stock index, a broader measure of the market, reached a record 1,570.25.



Marty Grossman shops for a hat at Lodge's store on in Albany, N.Y. After five painful years, the economy is nearly back to where it started when the recession began. What's different now is that the trends are much healthier. Gone are the fears that the economy could fall into another recession.

(AP Photo/Mike Groll)

— **GDP.** America's economy is producing more goods and services than before the recession began. In the final three months of 2007, it produced an annual rate of \$13.3 trillion in goods and services, a record high. That figure had shrunk to \$12.7 trillion when the recession ended. It then began to recover. The U.S. gross domestic product, the broadest gauge of production, regained its previous peak by the end of 2011. And in the final three months of 2012, GDP was \$13.7 trillion. Still, that gain comes with an asterisk, because the population has grown. Viewed on a per capita basis, GDP at the end of 2012 remained 1.5 percent below its pre-recession peak.

WHAT'S NOT BACK:

— **TOTAL JOBS.** The United States still has many fewer jobs than in December 2007. The recession eliminated 8.7 million. Since then, 5.7 million jobs have come back, leaving the economy 3 million short. And the population of Americans 16 and older has grown by 13 million since then. As a result, a much smaller proportion of people are either working or looking for work than before the recession. The labor force participation rate — the percentage of adults with a job or seeking one — has sunk from its pre-recession level of 66

underemployment rate of 14.3 percent, down from a peak of 17.1 percent in April 2010.

— **HOUSING.** The housing market has been recovering for about a year but still hasn't reached normal levels. Previously occupied homes were sold in February at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of about 4.98 million. An annual rate of about 5.5 million would be healthy. In the recession, sales had bottomed at 3.8 million. And last month, builders began work on a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 917,000 homes. That's way up from a recession low of 478,000. But it's still far from a healthy annual rate of roughly 1.5 million. Prices have risen nearly 9 percent since bottoming in March 2012, according to the Standard & Poor's/Case-Shiller index, but they remain 29 percent below their pre-recession peak. Still, housing differs from other sectors: Its peaks occurred during a housing bubble that eventually burst. Few expect or even want prices to return to those levels soon. Most economists welcome the steady but modest growth housing has achieved in recent months.

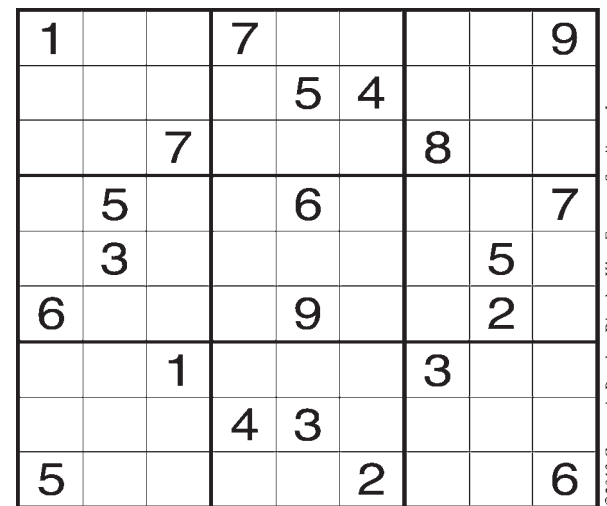
— **AUTO SALES.** Auto sales have nearly returned to where they were. Americans bought cars at an annual rate of nearly 16 million in December 2007. Sales plunged to 10.4 million in 2009. In March this year, the annual sales pace was 15.3 million. The rebound has stimulated hiring and restored the once-bankrupt General Motors and Chrysler to health.

— **INDUSTRIAL OUTPUT.** U.S. factories aren't back to their pre-recession peak of output. But they're getting closer. Production was about 5 percent lower in February than in December 2007, according to the Federal Reserve. The Fed also tracks industrial output, a broader measure that includes mining and utilities. That figure is just 1.8 percent below its pre-recession peak. □

percent to 63.5 percent in February. That matches a 30-year low.

— **UNEMPLOYMENT RATE.** When the recession began, unemployment was 5 percent. Now, it's 7.7 percent. Probably no figure better illustrates the downturn's lingering damage. The unemployment rate is well below the recession's peak of 10 percent in October 2009 but far above the 5 percent to 6 percent range associated with a healthy economy. Twelve million people are unemployed. Yet that figure doesn't include 2.6 million people without jobs who have stopped looking for one. An additional 8 million work part time but want full-time work. Combining all those groups, 22.6 million people are either unemployed or "underemployed." They represent an

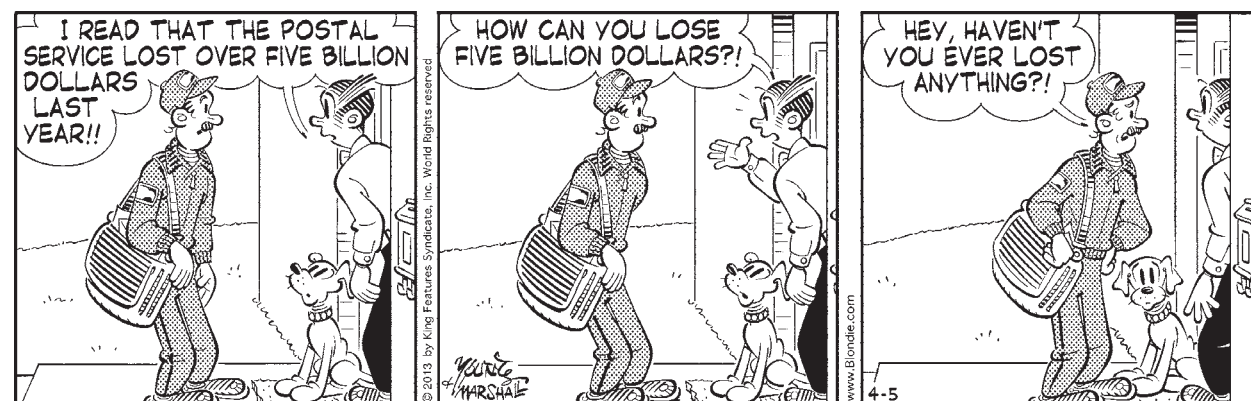
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	7	3	2	5	8	4	1	6	9
	5	9	1	3	2	6	7	4	8
	8	4	6	7	9	1	5	2	3
	4	1	3	6	5	7	8	9	2
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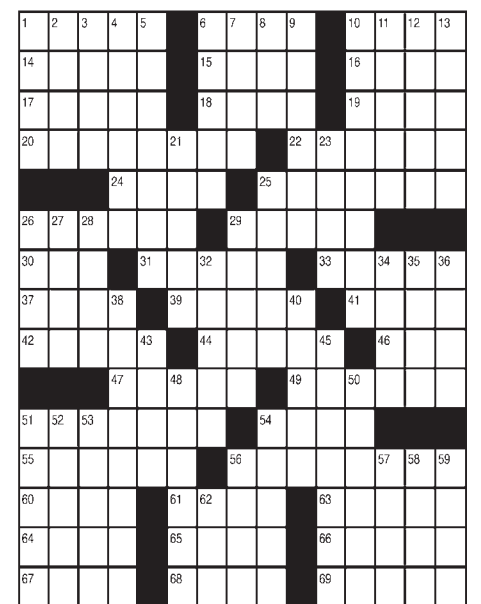
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ACROSS

- 1 Remove the lid from.
- 6 Reminder of past surgery
- 10 Chimpanzees and gorillas
- 14 Sifting device
- 15 Main part of a church
- 16 Ooze
- 17 Firstborn of two
- 18 Floored
- 19 Indira Gandhi's robe
- 20 Goes in again
- 22 Priest or minister
- 24 Aquatic bird
- 25 Swirly design on a fabric
- 26 Outstanding
- 29 Pius X and Leo XIII, e.g.
- 30 Dined
- 31 Counterfeit



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4/5/13

5 Upset

6 Growl fiercely

7 Crow cries

8 Pennsylvania
or Fifth: abbr.

9 Baggage porter

10 Property
analyzer from
the tax office

11 Treasure in an
oyster shell

12 Mysterious

13 Not at all bland

21 Tennis __; form
of tendinitis

23 Fibbed

25 __ a question;
inquires

H	O	P	E		S	H	A	C	K		P	U	B	S	
O	V	E	N		N	Y	L	O	N		A	S	A	P	
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4/5/13

67 Cincinnati team	27 Beehive State	43 Breathing	53 ___ up; formed
68 Talk back	28 Mexican dollar	44 organ	54 a queue
69 Freeway exits	29 Wild felines	45 Break, as a	54 Landing places
	32 Like roasted	46 dropped mirror	56 Feel the loss of
DOWN	33 marshmallows	48 Spirited horses	57 Eve's hubby
1 ___-friendly;	34 Pistols & rifles	50 Goat with long	58 Breathe with
easy to learn	35 Dour; morose	51 silky hair	difficulty
2 Longest river	36 Cravings	51 Role player	59 Peepers
3 Relinquish	38 Monotony	52 Lyvna flat	62 Solit soup
4 Get even for	40 More pleasant		

Wealth Matters: Gen X and Gen Y falling behind

Meagan Pant

© 2013 Cox Newspapers

DAYTON, Ohio -- For young people today, the American dream of working hard, saving money and becoming richer than their parents may be out of reach, according to a new study.

Americans in their mid-30s and younger have accumulated less wealth than their parents did at that age more than 25 years ago -- a trend that threatens to weaken the economy overall, according to the study by the Urban Institute, which investigates and analyzes the country's social and economic problems.

Stagnant wages, diminishing job opportunities and lost home values are behind the issue and have kept young Americans from saving even as the economy doubled from the early 1980s, the study found.

"Young people are falling behind," said Caroline Ratcliffe, one of the authors of the "Lost Generations? Wealth Building among Young Americans" report. "Across different generations and ages, what we tend to see in this country is that each generation is better off and wealthier. That fact that this group is falling behind is very different," said Ratcliffe, a

senior fellow at the Urban Institute.

If young Americans cannot accumulate wealth over their lifetimes, such as people in prior generations, they will be less able to support themselves when they retire, Ratcliffe said. And her study points out that despite the relative youth of those in Gen X and Gen Y -- people born since 1966 -- they may not be able to make up the ground they have lost.

Student loan debt has increased in recent years and recently passed \$1 trillion (more than credit card debt). Ratcliffe said those large loan burdens can have a ripple effect, delaying young people from being able to build a savings or buy a house.

Americans in their 20s and 30s who were homeowners were among the hardest hit by the housing crash, because their mortgages were large compared to their home values and they could not take advantage of lower interest rates, Ratcliffe said. The wealth of those ages 29 to 37 suffered the largest fall, dropping 21 percent compared to people of that age in 1983, according to the study. Now, young people's concerns about being worse off could have a long-lasting effect on their expectations, Ratcliffe said. □

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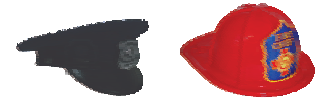
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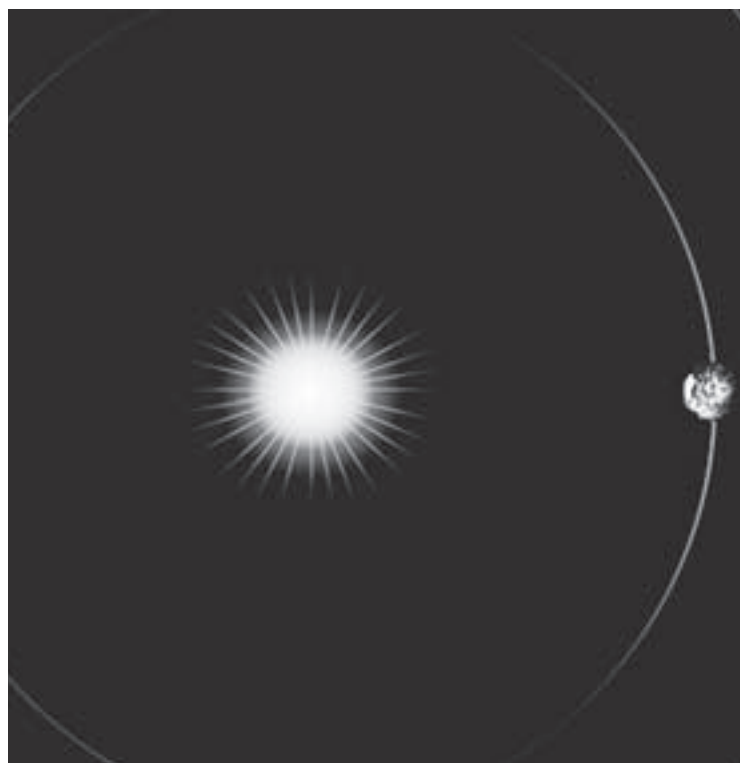


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Mars missions scaled back in April because of sun



This artist rendering provided by NASA shows the positions of the sun, Earth and Mars, at left. Radio communications between Earth and Mars are limited during this planetary alignment, which occurs in April.

Associated Press

ALICIA CHANG
AP Science Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP)—It's the Martian version of spring break: Curiosity and Opportunity, along with their spacecraft friends circling overhead, will take it easy this month because of the sun's interference.

For much of April, the sun blocks the line of sight between Earth and Mars. This celestial alignment — called a Mars solar conjunction — makes it difficult for engineers to send instructions or hear from the flotilla in orbit and on the surface.

Such communication blackouts occur every two years when the red planet disappears behind the sun. No new commands are sent since flares and charged particles spewing from the sun can scramble transmission signals and put spacecraft in danger.

Mission teams prepared by uploading weeks of scaled-back activities beforehand.

"They're on their own," said Rich Zurek, chief Mars scientist at the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

The rovers are banned from driving. Instead, they take a staycation and study their surroundings. The orbiting Mars Odyssey and Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter continue to listen for the rovers and make their own observations, but for the most part will transmit data once Mars is in view again.

Opportunity, Odyssey, Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter and the European Space Agency's Mars Express have survived previous bouts of restricted communications. It's the first for Curiosity, which landed last year near the Martian equator to hunt

for the chemical building blocks of life.

Beginning Thursday and through May 1, Curiosity can only check the weather every hour, measure radiation and look for signs of water below the desert-like surface. The limited chores are a departure for the active six-wheeler, which is used to driving, drilling and zapping its laser at rocks.

Before the sun got in the way, Curiosity made its biggest discovery yet: From a drilled piece of rock, it determined that its crater landing site was habitable billions of years ago, possessing some of the basic ingredients necessary to support tiny microbes.

Scientists must wait until

next month to drill into another rock and start the long-delayed trek to a mountain where Curiosity will search for the elusive organic molecules that are fundamental to life as we know it. The road trip was supposed to have started last year, but longer-than-expected science experiments put Curiosity behind schedule.

Odyssey, circling Mars since 2001, has experienced half a dozen blackout episodes with no problem. This time, it will try something new. There are plans to radio Earth every day even if calls are dropped, mostly to keep engineers updated on Curiosity's health. The rover is also programmed

to send daily beeps to ground controllers.

By contrast, the Mars Reconnaissance Orbiter will record and store information onboard its computers and beam it back after the hiatus. Opportunity, which parked itself in a clay-rich spot, will use the down time to study a rock and track the amount of dust in the sky.

With Mars missions on autopilot, many scientists and engineers planned to take vacation while a small crew remains on duty.

"We've been through this before," Zurek said. "We're not expecting to have any problems during this period. Let's hope it stays that way." □

Ancient site unearthed in Iraqi home of Abraham



This photo taken on April 1, 2013 provided by Manchester University archaeologist Stuart Campbell shows a clay plaque, which shows a worshipper approaching a sacred place.

Associated Press

SINAN SALAHEDDIN
Associated Press

BAGHDAD (AP) — British archaeologists said Thursday they have unearthed a sprawling complex near the ancient city of Ur in southern Iraq, home of the biblical Abraham. The structure, thought to be about 4,000 years old,

probably served as an administrative center for Ur, around the time Abraham would have lived there before leaving for Canaan, according to the Bible.

The compound is near the site of the partially reconstructed Ziggurat, or Sumerian temple, said Stuart Campbell of Manchester University's Archaeology Department, who led the dig.

"This is a breathtaking find," Campbell said, because of its unusually large size — roughly the size of a football pitch, or about 80 meters (260 feet) on each side. The archaeologist said complexes of this size and age were rare.

"It appears that it is some sort of public building. It might be an administrative building, it might have religious connections or controlling goods to the city of Ur," he told The Associated Press in a phone interview from the U.K.

The complex of rooms around a large courtyard was found 20 kilometers (12 miles) from Ur, the last capital of the Sumerian royal dynasties whose civilization

flourished 5,000 years ago. Campbell said one of the artifacts they unearthed was a 9-centimeter (3.5-inch) clay plaque showing a worshipper wearing a long, fringed robe, approaching a sacred site.

Beyond artifacts, the site could reveal the environmental and economic conditions of the region through analysis of plant and animal remains, the archaeological team said in a statement.

The dig began last month when the six-member British team worked with four Iraqi archaeologists to dig in the Tell Khaiber in the southern province of Thi Qar, some 200 miles (320 kilometers) south of Baghdad.

Decades of war and violence have kept international archaeologists away from Iraq,

where significant archaeological sites as yet unexplored are located. Still, the dig showed that such collaborative missions could be possible in parts of Iraq that are relatively stable, like its Shiite-dominated south. □

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Beyonce, Jay-Z turn heads in Havana

ANDREA RODRIGUEZ

Associated Press

HAVANA (AP) — Beyonce and Jay-Z caused a big stir in Havana as they marked their fifth wedding anniversary

sary Thursday.

R&B's power couple was mobbed by dozens of well-wishers at the renowned restaurant La Guarida on Wednesday night, and po-



U.S. singer Beyonce and her husband, rapper Jay-Z, hold hands as they tour Old Havana, Cuba, Thursday, April 4, 2013. R&B's power couple is in Havana on their fifth wedding anniversary.

Associated Press

lice had to step in to keep the crowds at bay.

La Guarida staffers showed The Associated Press pictures of the two dining on typical Cuban creole favorites — fish, chicken, black beans and rice — accompanied by their mothers.

The privately run restaurant is famous as the filming location for the hit movie "Strawberry and Chocolate," and is a mainstay on Havana's tourist circuit.

Waitress Silvia Fernandez said Beyonce toured the eatery and looked at photos of past celebrity clients: Jack Nicholson, Jodie Foster, Danny Glover, Will Smith, James Belushi and more.

Their bodyguards' presence outside set the gritty, bustling neighborhood of Center Havana abuzz, and a crowd gathered downstairs shouting Beyonce's name until she went to a balcony and waved.

Police arrived and made sure she was able to exit without incident.

"She was beautiful, without a drop of makeup, very natural," Fernandez said. "What happened with the people was incredible."

On Thursday the couple toured colonial Old Ha-

vana wearing dark glasses and surrounded by bodyguards and excited fans. Beyonce posed for pictures with local schoolchildren while Jay-Z puffed on a Cuban cigar, and then they popped into another restaurant that boasts a rooftop terrace with a sweeping view of the harbor.

Beyonce and Jay-Z declined to speak to reporters, and it was not clear why they traveled to Cuba. State-run website CubaSi called it a tourist trip.

Washington's 51-year embargo makes it illegal for U.S. citizens to visit Cuba for mere tourism, although tens of thousands of Americans travel here each year on academic, religious, journalistic or cultural exchange licenses.

In the past, artists who were challenged by the government have said they visited for cultural purposes.

The artists' publicists did not immediately respond to emailed requests for comment, and the U.S. Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control, which is responsible for licensing approved travel to Cuba, said it does not comment on individual cases. □

Famed movie critic Roger Ebert dies at age 70



In this Jan. 12, 2011 file photo, Pulitzer Prize-winning movie critic Roger Ebert works in his office at the WTTW-TV studios in Chicago. The Chicago Sun-Times is reporting that its film critic Roger Ebert died on Thursday, April 4, 2013. He was 70.

Associated Press

CARYN ROUSSEAU

Associated Press

CHICAGO (AP) — Roger Ebert, the most famous and popular film reviewer of his time who became the first journalist to win a Pulitzer Prize for movie criticism and, on his long-running TV program, wielded America's most influential thumb, died Thursday. He

was 70.

Ebert, who had been a film critic for the Chicago Sun-Times since 1967, died Thursday at the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago, his office said.

Only a day earlier, he announced on his blog that he was undergoing radiation treatment after a recurrence of cancer.

He had no grand theories or special agendas, but millions recognized the chatty, heavy-set man with wavy hair and horn-rimmed glasses.

Above all, they followed his thumb — pointing up or down. It was the main logo of the televised shows Ebert co-hosted, first with Gene Siskel of the rival Chicago Tribune and — after Siskel's death in 1999 — with his Sun-Times colleague Richard Roeper.

Although criticized as gimmicky and simplistic, a "two thumbs-up" accolade was sure to find its way into the advertising for the movie in question.

On the air, Ebert and Siskel bickered like an old married couple and openly needled each other. To viewers who had trouble telling them apart, Ebert was known as the fat one with glasses, Siskel as the thin, bald one.

Despite his power with the movie-going public, Ebert considered himself "beneath everything else a fan." □

Death for a reality star, but reality TV goes on

FRAZIER MOORE

AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — For a fleeting moment, Shain Gandee was part of the 1 percent.

Not the economic 1 percent, of course. Not when a fundraiser was announced to help cover his funeral costs.

No, Gandee gained entry into another kind of 1 percent, the 1 percent who can claim to be famous. To be recognized, however marginally, as a media celebrity, never mind why. To be saluted for posing as some version of oneself, however distorted that version may be.

Thanks to his brief run on the MTV reality show "Buckwild" (whose first sea-



This Jan. 2, 2013 file photo shows Shain Gandee, from MTV's "Buckwild" reality series in New York.

Associated Press

son began in January and concluded a month later), Gandee was lifted from obscurity in small-town West Virginia for a dozen episodes of prominence before his death earlier this week.

Gandee became a star doted on by the 99 percent. Or enough of that public to please MTV (which was soon back filming "Buckwild" for a second season), and surely enough to have thrilled Gandee.

"Buckwild" trades on the devil-may-care antics of a group of 20-something guys and gals with more time on their hands than good sense. The bed of a dump truck becomes their swimming hole. □



This Nov. 22, 1963 file photo shows President John F. Kennedy and his wife Jacqueline Kennedy upon their arrival at Dallas Airport, in Dallas, shortly before President Kennedy was assassinated.
Associated Press

TLC doing movie on letters to Jackie Kennedy

NEW YORK (AP) — The TLC network is making a movie about some of the 800,000 condolence letters that were sent to the widow of former President John F. Kennedy after his 1963 assassination. "Letters to Jackie" will air this fall, as the 50th anniversary of Kennedy's killing approaches on Nov. 22.

The film revisits the aftermath of the assassination to examine the former first lady's role in helping the nation through its grief as she suffered through her own. Twenty celebrities will read the letters, including Zooey Deschanel, Kirsten Dunst, Anne Hathaway, Mark Ruffalo, Betty White and Michelle Williams. □

'Arrested Development' premieres May 26 on Netflix



This undated publicity photo released by Netflix shows Will Arnett, left, and Jason Bateman in a scene from "Arrested Development," premiering May 26, 2013 on Netflix.

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — "Arrested Development" will be reborn on Netflix on May 26. The subscription service announced the premiere date Thursday, saying that all 15 episodes of the comedy series will be posted at the same time. The Mitchell Hurwitz sitcom starring Jason Bateman was canceled by Fox in 2006 after three seasons. "Arrested Development" is the most eagerly anticipat-

ed original series from Netflix following the political thriller "House of Cards," which debuted in February. In a statement, Netflix chief executive Ted Sarandos says the return of the cultishly beloved "Arrested Development" is "sure to make history all over again." In response, Hurwitz joked that Sarandos is "going to be immensely disappointed." □

Motown's unsung female trio finally gets acclaim



This March 12, 2013 photo show The Andantes, from left, Jackie Hicks, Marlene Barrow-Tate and Louvain Demps posing during a visit to Motown Historical Museum in Detroit.

Associated Press



This March 12, 2013 photo, shows photos of the Andantes, part of the exhibit, "Motown Girl Groups: The Grit, the Glamour, the Glory" at the Motown Historical Museum in Detroit. The Andantes are featured — with equal billing — alongside the Supremes, Vandellas, Marvelettes and Velvelettes

Associated Press

JEFF KAROUB
Associated Press
DETROIT (AP) — More than 40 years have passed since the recording of Marvin Gaye's "Save the Children," but a replay of the song in the studio where it was recorded compressed time and brought tears to the eyes of Louvain Demps. Demps was no mere fan visiting what's now the Motown Historical Museum. She was one of the women singing the angelic, high harmonies on the recording — and hearing it in Hitsville USA's Studio A was too much. "It's my heart, it's my heart," she said. For Demps and her fellow Andantes, Jackie Hicks and Marlene Barrow-Tate, moments like these have been private, since the wider world knew only their voices, not their faces. But

now in their 70s, the unsung backing group who sang on thousands of Motown songs is finally getting acclaim for its contributions to the groundbreaking, chart-topping music made in Detroit in the 1960s and early '70s before the label moved to Los Angeles. The trio gathered recently to see the exhibit, "Motown Girl Groups: The Grit, the Glamour, the Glory," which will run through the summer. The Andantes are featured — with equal billing — alongside the Supremes, Vandellas, Marvelettes and Velvelettes. The joyous but rare reunion was made possible by a sad event the day before: the funeral of former Miracles member Bobby Rogers. For the Andantes, it made their meeting more poignant.

"It is unfortunate that so many are gone and thank God that we are still here — all of us — to be able to see this and see our dream come true," said Barrow-Tate, who still lives in Detroit, as does Hicks. The two are retired, but Demps, who lives near Atlanta, still sings solo or with others. The Andantes were the go-to backup singers for most Motown artists, including Gaye, Stevie Wonder, The Four Tops and the girl groups themselves. "Save the Children" came from Gaye's "What's Going On," one of Motown's greatest — and last — albums recorded in Detroit. The Andantes sang backup on many of the record's cuts — including the title track — and even traveled with Gaye to his hometown of Washington, D.C., in 1972 to perform the disc in its entirety at the Kennedy Center. Motown Museum officials say the trio, almost always anonymously, sang on more songs than any other group at Motown. They were the female and vocal equivalent to the Funk Brothers, the label's house band that itself was largely anonymous in its time but gained acclaim through the 2002 documentary film, "Standing in the Shadows of Motown." The Andantes' peerless ability to vocally blend — not only with each other but also with stars such as Gaye, The Four Tops, Smokey Robinson and the Miracles and many others — was one of the factors that kept them in demand behind the scenes. They were so successful that they were seen as essential backup artists, and that limited them from growing more. The Andantes don't exactly sing the same old song now when it comes to how they felt about standing and singing in the shadows. "We did not mind not having our name on someone else's record," Hicks said. □

When TV Takes Its Time



FRANK BRUNI

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If you haven't caught "Top of the Lake," a cryptic miniseries on the Sundance Channel right now, you owe yourself a peek, if only to behold and savor Holly Hunter, whose character is a mash-up of Pocahontas, the oracle at Delphi and Cousin Itt from "The Addams Family." She's all hair, her silvery mane accounting for easily half of her body weight and seemingly destined to sweep the ground. Perhaps when the character isn't providing terse counsel to the damaged women around her at an odd spiritual retreat, she moonlights as a broom.

Most of the women at the retreat, built from a network of colorful cargo containers arranged like gigantic Legos on the lip of the aforementioned lake, are on the lam from destructive relationships with men. One is on the lam from a destructive relationship with a chimpanzee as well. Still they can't help themselves. Their eyes rove to the scruffy local lads in the gorgeous patch of New Zealand where the story is set, and in the third of what will be seven episodes, a woman leaves her container to spend the night in the less spartan digs of a lakeside drug lord. Minor spoiler alert: as she slips into his bed, he announces that he's impotent, and the day after, as they frolic sexlessly in the woods, he stumbles across his mother's grave, kneels in front of it and begins flagellating himself. This is a pretty good definition of a really bad date.

I'm mesmerized by "Top of the Lake," which is now halfway through its run, and friends who are watching it constantly bring it up. And what we're mainly responding to isn't the meat of the yarn, which focuses on the effort to unravel what happened to a 12-year-old girl who is about five months pregnant. It's the ancillary riddles and vaguely explained curiosities, like the interludes in Lego land. It's the gentle pacing. It's the way in which the miniseries, one of whose principal writers and directors is Jane Campion, insists on a certain opaqueness and bucks the bulk of what's on television, even in this golden age of the medium. "Top of the Lake" belongs to a budding genre that several critics, including Alessandra Stanley in The Times and Matt Zoller Seitz in Salon, have called Slow TV. Stanley sagely noted the paral-

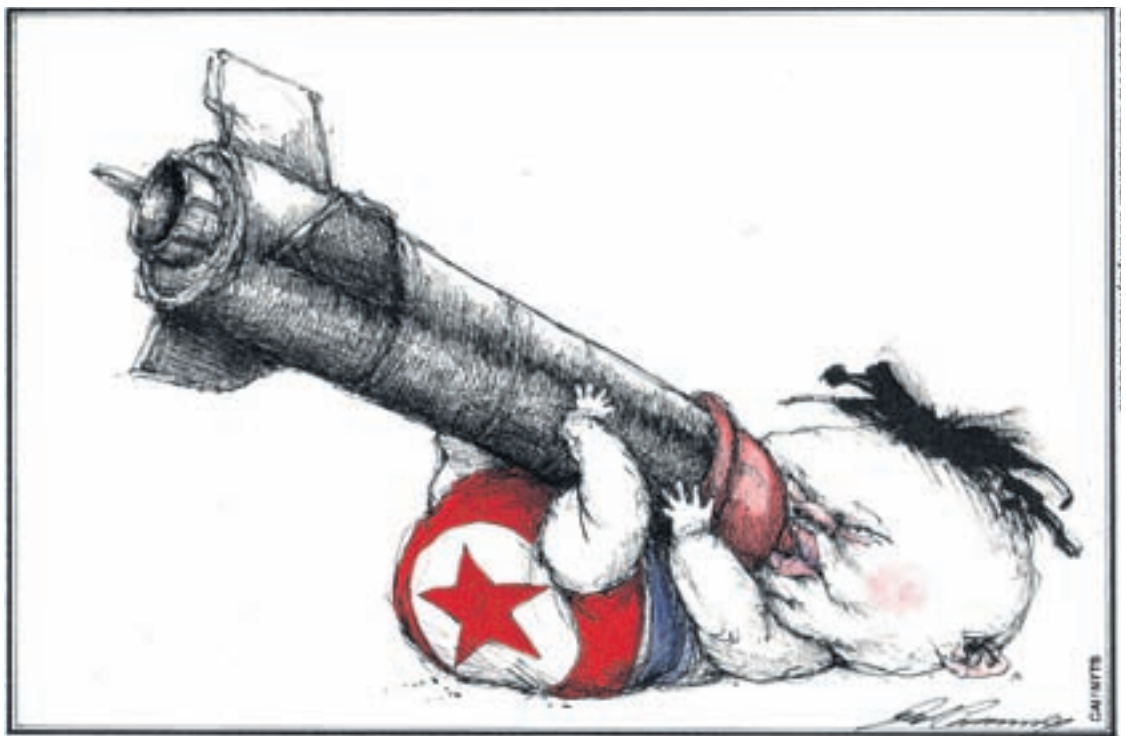
lel to Slow Food, which rebelled against the metastasis of McDonald's outposts. Slow TV pushes back at the instant gratification and empty calories of too many elimination contests, too many reality shows, too many efficient, literal-minded forensic dramas that perhaps keep certain plot threads dangling but tie up the episode's main mystery by the hour's end.

The term Slow TV has multiple meanings, and has been applied to full-length chronicles of actual, incrementally unfolding events, like a ship's voyage, and to the practice of spacing out viewings of a fictional serial's episodes rather than watching them in a marathon session. But I think it's best deployed in the way Stanley and then Seitz, writing about such shows as "Treme" and "Game of Thrones," used it: to describe unrushed, atmospheric narratives.

Slow TV mines the pleasures of ambiguity, which are affirmed, as it happens, by one of the best movies I've recently seen, "Room 237," a documentary in limited theatrical release and on cable TV. The title refers to a detail in Stanley Kubrick's film adaptation of "The Shining," and the documentary recounts the riot of messages and meanings that obsessive fans have read into Kubrick's lone foray into horror.

It's a testament, hilarious at times, to the human genius for overanalysis. One "Shining" fan points to a German-made typewriter in the movie to support his theory that it's a Holocaust parable; another cites the feathered-headress logo on baking-powder cans in a few scenes for his belief that "The Shining" is about the massacre of American Indians. A desktop paper tray is determined to be a metaphoric erection, and so on. The abstruseness of some of "The Shining" is arguably a flaw, but "Room 237" reminds you that only an artistic work that resists tidy explanation can accommodate such enjoyable flights of interpretive fancy.

Ambiguity has never been what TV values most, "Twin Peaks" excepted. But it was central to "The Killing," which highlighted an additional characteristic of Slow or Slowish TV, the willingness to wander off the main road and down an intriguing cul-de-sac, as "Girls" did in a discrete episode with Patrick Wilson as a guest star. Another HBO series, "Enlightened," partly redeemed its irritations with its habits of straying, and of lingering: on a sigh, on a glare, on a soulless office building. It cared as much for mood as for plot. The same is true of "Top of the Lake," which preserves some enigmas, hirsute and otherwise, and surrenders others on its own timetable, making you wait and making you work. Just like life. □



Lessons From A Comeback



PAUL KRUGMAN

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Modern movement conservatism, which transformed the GOP from the moderate party of Dwight Eisenhower into the radical right-wing organization we see today, was largely born in California. The Golden State, even more than the South, created today's religious conservatism; it elected Ronald Reagan governor; it's where the tax revolt of the 1970s began. But that was then. In the decades since, the state has grown ever more liberal, thanks in large part to an ever-growing nonwhite share of the electorate.

As a result, the reign of the Governor aside, California has been solidly Democratic since the late 1990s. And ever since the political balance shifted, conservatives have declared the state doomed. Their specifics keep changing, but the moral is always the same: liberal dogooders are bringing California to its knees.

A dozen years ago, the state was supposedly doomed by all its environmentalists. You see, the eco-freaks were blocking power plants, and the result was crippling blackouts and soaring power prices. "The country's showcase state," gloated The Wall Street Journal, "has come to look like a hapless banana republic."

But a funny thing happened on the road to collapse: It turned out that the main culprit in the

electricity crisis was deregulation, which opened the door for ruthless market manipulation. When the market manipulation went away, so did the blackouts. Undeterred, a few years later conservatives found another line of attack. This time they said that liberal big spending and overpaid public employees were bringing on collapse.

And the state has indeed spent the past few years facing a severe fiscal crunch. When the national housing bubble burst, California was hit especially hard, and the combined effects of the plunge in home prices and the economic downturn led to sharply reduced revenue. Once more there were gleeful pronouncements of imminent doom: California, declared one pundit after another, is America's Greece.

Again, however, reports of the state's demise proved premature. Unemployment in California remains high, but it's coming down — and there's a projected budget surplus, in part because the implosion of the state's Republican Party finally gave Democrats a big enough political advantage to push through some desperately needed tax increases. Far from presiding over a Greek-style crisis, Gov. Jerry Brown is proclaiming a comeback.

Needless to say, the usual suspects are still predicting doom — this time from the very tax hikes that are closing the budget gap, which they say will cause millionaires and businesses to flee the state. Well, maybe — but serious studies have found very little evidence either that tax hikes cause lots of wealthy people to move or that state taxes have any significant impact on growth.

So what do we learn from this history of doom deferred? I'm not suggesting everything in California is just fine. Unemployment — especially long-term unemployment — remains very high.

California's longer-term economic growth has slowed, too, mainly because the state's limited supply of buildable land means high housing prices, bringing an era of rapid population growth to an end. (Did you know that metropolitan Los Angeles has a higher population density than metropolitan New York?) Last but not least, decades of political paralysis have degraded the state's once-superb public education system. So there are plenty of problems.

The point, however, is that these problems bear no resemblance to the death-by-liberalism story line the California-bashers keep peddling. California isn't a state in which liberals have run wild; it's a state where a liberal majority has been effectively hamstrung by a fanatical conservative minority that, thanks to supermajority rules, has been able to block effective policymaking.

And that's where things get really interesting — because the era of hamstrung government seems to be coming to an end. Over the years, California's Republicans moved right as the state moved left, yet retained political relevance thanks to their blocking power. But at this point the state's GOP has fallen below critical mass, losing even its power to obstruct — and this has left Brown free to push an agenda of tax hikes and infrastructure spending that sounds remarkably like the kind of thing California used to do before the rise of the radical right.

And if this agenda is successful, it will have national implications. After all, California's political story — in which a radicalized GOP fell increasingly out of touch with an increasingly diverse and socially liberal electorate, and eventually found itself marginalized — is arguably playing out with a lag on the national scene too.

So is California still the place where the future happens first? Stay tuned. □

Riches of Dutch History Return to the Rijksmuseum

TOBY STERLING

Associated Press

AMSTERDAM (AP) — The Rijksmuseum, the National Museum of the Netherlands, is finally set to reopen to the public, with Rembrandt van Rijn's masterpiece "The Night Watch" reclaiming its place of pride.

The giant painting hangs in the same central position it did before an epic, decade long, €375 million (\$480 million) make-over, flanked by works by Johannes Vermeer, Jan Steen and thousands of other Dutch cultural and artistic artifacts.

In a preview Thursday ahead of the April 13 reopening, Rijksmuseum director Wim Pijbes said the far-reaching improvements will justify the long wait.

"It's totally changed, renewed, improved, radiant — everything is new," he said.

The Rijksmuseum houses the largest collection of Dutch artwork, with many treasures from the country's 17th-century Golden Age and beyond.

The 19th-century building's red-brick exterior, which resembles a fairy-tale castle, has been restored but left intact. Inside, twin central courtyards that had been gradually filled with extra floors as the museum grew over the years have been reclaimed.

The clutter has been stripped away to let natural light flood into the center of the museum.

Despite reopening the courtyard, the museum preserved as much exhibition space as before by reclaiming some areas which had been used for offices. From hand-painted details on every pillar, to newly laid mosaic floors and stained glass windows, to revitalizing the displays themselves, every part of the museum has been restored or rethought.

Pijbes said that almost never has a national museum undergone such a far-reaching facelift, with every single one of the 8,000 artifacts and pieces of art

on display coming to rest in a different spot — with one exception: "The Night Watch" itself.

That enormous canvas — 4.35 meters wide and 3.79 meters high (14.86 x 12.43

who of Dutch masters, from landscape masters to portraitists. Highlights include Vermeer's delicate, quiet "Milkmaid" (1660), in which the act of pouring milk becomes an almost religious

Outside the main gallery, the rest of the exhibits are dispersed along a 1.5 kilometers (about a mile) walk through the galleries.

The twin arms of the castle-like structure continue

tell the story of the Netherlands," he said.

The displays were arranged by French designer Jean-Michel Wilmotte, who also helped design the interior of the Louvre in Paris.



A handout photo of the Rijksmuseum, closed since 2003 for restorations. Now, the Rijksmuseum is poised to reopen on April 13, 2013, after a renovation that took five years longer than expected and cost nearly \$500 million, tens of millions over its budget.

(Iwan Baan via The New York Times)

feet) — portrays a company of Amsterdam volunteer militiamen. It stands at the end of the museum's central gallery, just as it did in the original 1885 design by architect Pierre Cuypers.

The painting's placement reflects Dutch history, a crowning achievement of the Golden Age when the Netherlands was a major naval power and Amsterdam was one of the world's most influential and wealthy cities.

"The Gallery of Honor is a kind of basilica that ends not with a Christian display, but a civilian display: Rembrandt's 'Night Watch,'" Pijbes said.

The symbolism is that "that there is no one king that has the power, that the Netherlands is a country where an early republic decided a group of people would have power in their hands."

The main gallery is a who's

act; as well as larger and more raucous works like Steen's "The Merry Family" (1668) and Frans Hals's "The Merry Drinker" (1628). And of course it includes paintings and sketches by Rembrandt, including several self-portraits and masterpieces such as one of his most-loved works, "The Jewish Bride" (1669), which shows a tender couple lightly touching.

The museum's head of collections Taco Dibbits said the 17th-century works will always set the museum apart from other national exhibitions.

"This little country became an enormous sea power, East and West, very rich," he said. "The old masters such as Rembrandt, Vermeer, Frans Hals, Jan Steen — they painted the world of the people, not Christ on the cross, they painted the people who made the country."

to divide the museum into wings, but with floors now organized chronologically by era.

Dibbits said the displays have been crafted to integrate artwork with artifacts that tell the story of the country's history and culture at the same time.

Before the renovation "there was one room for paintings, a room for glass, a room for silver, and so on, while in the new museum, you take a walk through the period," he said.

"The intention is ... to create a feeling for beauty of Dutch art and a feeling for the time," he said.

For instance, he said, you might a portrait painted by Rembrandt hanging above an ornate chest made by one of his friends, and silverware crafted by another of his friends on top of the chest.

"It's the relations between different art objects that

As a final, somewhat eccentric touch to remind the world Amsterdam is still a living city with its own cultural demands: a bike path runs straight under the center of the building's central arch, offering cyclists a view of the building's beautiful new courtyards.

The museum expects to attract as many as two million visitors annually after the renovations, from 1.3 million in the last year before it closed in 2003.

Tickets will cost 15 euros (\$19).

Among totally new displays are an Asian art pavilion; access to the museum's ornate library; and a new wing devoted to the 20th century, with works by Piet Mondrian and graphic artist and furniture designer Gerrit Rietveld, among others.

"That's history now too, and we collect the past," Dibbits said, grinning. □